

A NURSERY STORY OF THE BIBLE



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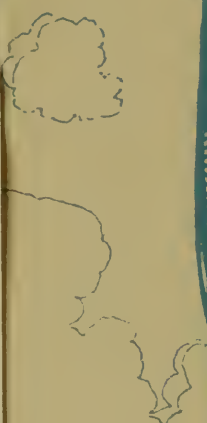
LOUISE M. PLEASANTON



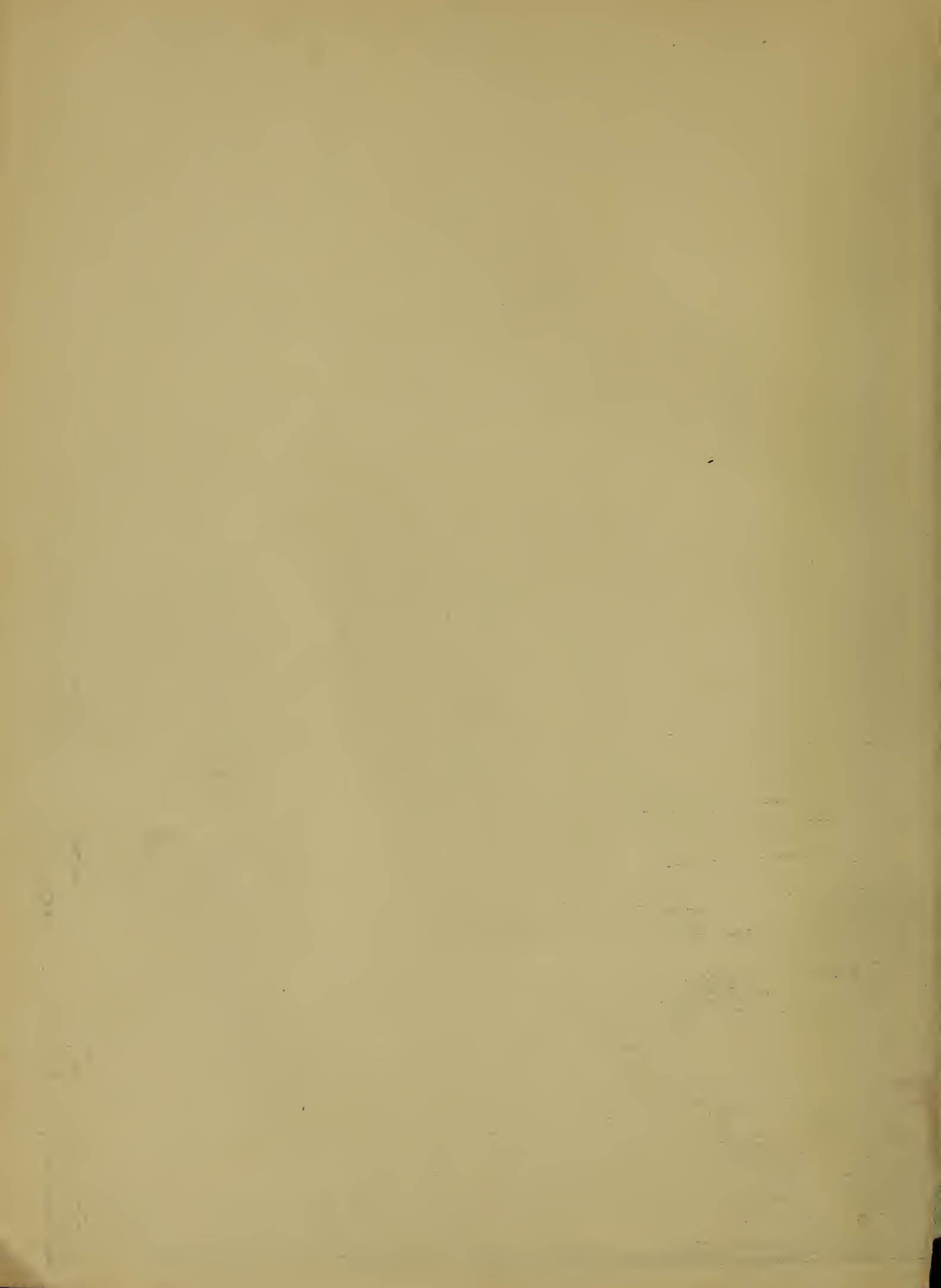
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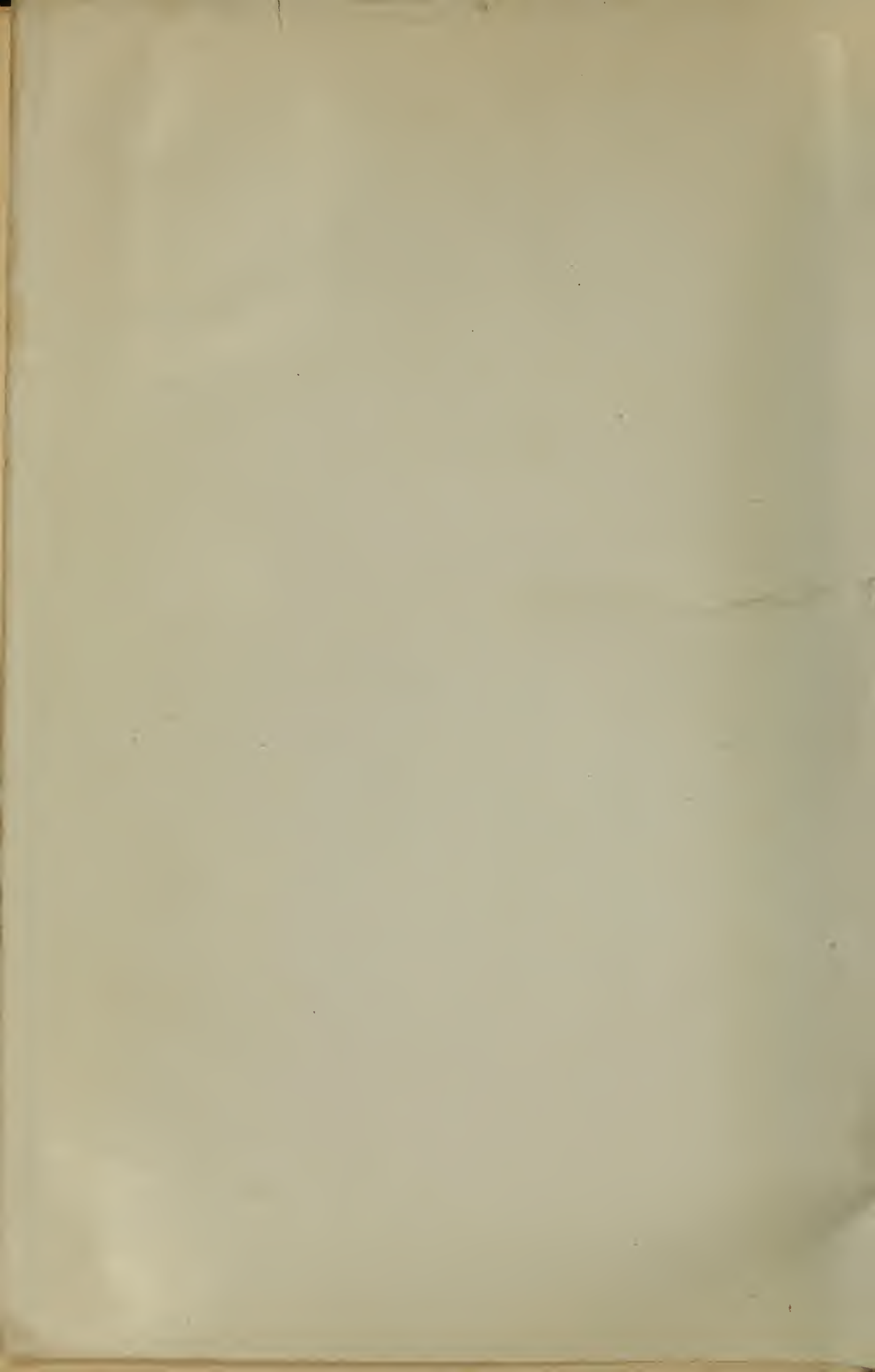




A NURSERY STORY OF THE BIBLE



WHEN PHARAOH'S DAUGHTER OPENED THE BASKET, THERE LAY A CRYING BABY



A NURSERY STORY OF THE BIBLE

BY
LOUISE M. PLEASANTON

*WITH TWELVE COLORED AND TEN
BLACK-AND-WHITE ILLUSTRATIONS BY*

FLORENCE CHOATE

AND

ELIZABETH CURTIS



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LOVINGLY DEDICATED
TO MY LITTLE SONS
ARCHIE AND DOUGLAS
AND TO
FREDERICK HOLLAND

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THE OLD TESTAMENT

A NURSERY STORY OF THE BIBLE

I

THE CREATION

IT all happened in the very beginning of time, when God made the world. For this is the story of God and of how He made heaven and earth. In the beginning it was not beautiful as it is now; all was dark, and the spirit of God moved in the darkness.

So God created heaven and earth, and because His was a great loving spirit, God thought to Himself, "I must still create; I must put beautiful things on this earth which I have made. First of all I will give light," and, He said, "Let there be light." And daylight spread over the whole world.

And God said, "I will make some of the hours light and some dark. The light hours I will call day, and the darkness I will call night." And that was the first day that came to the earth. At this time, each day was many thousands of years long.

And God said, "The dry land I will call the earth, and above the earth I will place my heaven." This work was done in the second day.

Upon this new earth God made grass and flowers to grow, and then the world was beautiful to see. He remembered even to make these flowers smell sweet when they opened in the sunlight. He made wonderful big green trees, and fruit that was good to eat grew on some of them. God was pleased with the beautiful things that He had made. And these things He finished on the third day.

On the fourth day God said, "I will put lights in the sky to make day and night upon the earth." So He made two great lights. The sun, because it was brightest, He made to shine by day, and the moon and stars He put in the sky to make a little light for the night.

On the fifth day God made fish to swim in the water, and lovely birds to fly in the air. He gave these birds wonderful blue and red and yellow feathers, and He taught them to make beautiful music. They were so happy because God had put them in this wonderful world that they sang all day in the green trees.

On the sixth day God made all kinds of animals,—things that walk; cows and elephants and lions and cats and dogs and sheep. He made things that fly in the air, like the tiny bees and butterflies, but He waited until the last to finish the most wonderful part of His work.

God said, "I will make a man, and in many ways he shall be like God. I will give him a mind, so that he can think and love, and he shall have everything on this earth to use

for himself.” So out of the soft ground God made this first man. He breathed some of His own spirit into the man and he became alive. And God named the man Adam.

THE GARDEN OF EDEN

GOD made a lovely garden which He called the Garden of Eden, and into this garden He put the man. And Adam rose up and walked about, and he called to the birds and animals, but of course they could not speak because they did not have a mind like Adam's. So Adam felt lonely because there was no one to talk to him.

And God said, "I will give this man some one to talk to and to love." So He made a beautiful woman to live in the garden with Adam, and the woman's name was Eve. When God saw this happy man and woman He was glad that He had made all of these things, and He told Adam and Eve that they might have everything in the Garden of Eden except the fruit from the tree which grew in the center of the garden.

For a long time Adam and Eve went about and were very happy together, but one day a serpent spoke to Eve and said, "Why can you not eat the fruit from every tree in the garden?"

And Eve answered, "We do eat of every tree excepting the one in the center of the garden."

Then the serpent said to her, "You may eat from that tree too. You will not die, but will learn a great deal if you eat some of this fruit."



THE SERPENT WENT ON COAXING AND ARGUING TILL FINALLY EVE WAS PERSUADED

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Then Eve looked at the beautiful tree and saw the good red fruit, and she plucked some of it, eating part of it herself and giving part of it to Adam.

A few hours after this they heard the voice of God as He walked through the garden in the cool of the day, and Adam and Eve were afraid because they had disobeyed God, and they ran and hid behind the trees.

Then God called to Adam and said to him, "Adam, where are you?"

And Adam answered, "I heard your voice in the garden and I was afraid."

And God said, "Have you eaten from the tree in the center of the garden?"

And Adam answered, "Eve ate first from it and then gave me part of the fruit."

And Eve said, "The serpent told me that the fruit would make me very wise, and I ate it."

And God was both angry and sad because this wonderful man and woman that He had made had disobeyed Him. But when people disobey the laws of God they are always punished for it. So God drove Adam and Eve from the Garden of Eden, and before the gate of the beautiful garden He placed two angels with flaming swords so that Adam and Eve could not enter again, but had to plant and work in the stony ground outside, to grow enough food to live upon.

III

THE STORY OF CAIN AND ABEL

YOU must wonder if Adam and Eve could ever be happy again after God sent them from the Garden of Eden. But as the days went by God sent them two sons; one son they named Cain and the other Abel. Then for a few years, although they worked very hard, they lived happily together. Cain was a farmer and planted and grew fruits and vegetables. Abel was a shepherd and raised flocks of sheep.

One day the brothers thought that they would like to give something to God. So Cain brought his most beautiful fruit, and Abel the best lamb from his flock, and they placed their gifts on two piles of stones out in the field. These piles of stones they called Altars.

When God saw the gift that Abel offered Him, He was pleased, because Abel was a good man and tried always to please God; but He was not pleased with Cain and his offering, because Cain was not a good man. When Cain saw that God would not take his gift, but was pleased with the offering that his brother made, he became very angry with Abel and one day he quarreled with him and struck and killed him.

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Then God said to Cain, "Where is your brother Abel?"

And Cain answered, "I do not know. Am I my brother's keeper?"

But God knew what Cain had done and told him that, because he had been so wicked, he must wander all over the earth. He could no longer be a farmer, because the fruit and grain would no longer grow for him. So Cain left the land where his father and mother were and wandered into strange countries.

NOAH'S ARK

MANY years after Adam and Eve were driven from the beautiful garden, there were a great many people living upon the earth. But the mothers and fathers, and even the little children, were so bad that they cared nothing about God or one another. So at last God saw that the only way to make the earth a pleasant place to live in was to punish all of these bad people.

There was only one family who still loved God; this was Noah and his children. So God told Noah to build a large boat, to take all of his children, and also two of every kind of animal that lived, and put them in the boat, because a dreadful storm was going to drown every one who was not in it.

So one day Noah and his sons cut down many trees and made boards, and began to build the big boat right in the middle of a green field. They called this boat an ark. When the people saw Noah making a boat so far from the water they laughed, and asked him how he was going to sail it without any water. Then Noah felt sorry for all of those bad people and tried to make them good so that God would not drown them. But it did no good. They only laughed at him and said they were not afraid of God, or of His rain.

When the ark was finished and made very strong so that it could not leak, Noah called all of his family together. And from all parts of the country came two of every kind of animal; cows and sheep, elephants, cats and dogs, camels, snakes, and birds and bugs, and they all crowded into the ark. And then the rain came! At first the bad people thought that it was only a shower, but it kept raining day after day for a long, long time, until the flood covered, first, the little houses, then the large ones, and finally the hills and tree-tops. Only Noah's family and the animals inside of the ark were saved.

After a long time (almost five months later) the rain stopped and Noah sent a dove from the ark. But everything was covered with water and in a little while the dove came back. A few days later Noah again sent the dove from the ark and this time she returned with a tiny green leaf in her bill.

Every one in the ark was happy when they saw this, for they knew that the water no longer covered the tree-tops. A few days later the dove was again sent out, but this time she did not come back. Then Noah knew that she must have found dry land and food to eat.

The ark had floated to the top of a mountain called Mount Ararat, and when Noah opened the great door in the side of the ark all the beautiful green world stretched away beneath them. Then how every one, people and animals alike,



THE WORD OF THE LORD CAME TO NOAH TELLING HIM TO GO FORTH OUT OF THE ARK WITH EVERYTHING THAT WAS IN IT

rushed to the door; each wanted to get out of the ark first. They had been there so long, and were so tired of staying in one place.

When they stepped outside it felt so good to be able to walk about on dry land, and there in the sunlight these people thanked God for His goodness to them. He had given them back their beautiful world, and in the sky He showed Noah a rainbow which stretched right across the sky in beautiful colors of red, blue, green, orange, and purple. And God said, "I will set my bow in the clouds as a promise to you that I will never again send a flood to kill everything that lives upon the earth."

THE TOWER OF BABEL

AT one time long, long ago all the people on earth lived together and spoke one language. They did not speak English and French and Spanish, and the many different tongues that they speak in these days.

And they left the country in the East where they had been living and traveled until they came to a plain in the land of Shinar. And they said to one another, "This is a beautiful country, let us stay here and we will make bricks, and with them we will build a city, and in the city we will build a great tower which shall reach up into heaven."

So they made bricks and built their city and started to build the tower. They built it up and up, one brick upon another, until it stood far above the city.

And the Lord came down to see the city and the tower which the men had made, and He saw that they were trying to make the tower reach up into His heaven. And the Lord said, "Behold, the people is one, and they have all one language; and this they begin to do, and now nothing will stop them that they think of doing. And," He said, "I will change the language of this people so that they cannot under-

stand one another." So God made them all speak in different tongues.

When they tried to finish the tower, and one man called to another and asked him to bring bricks, or mud with which to stick the bricks together; he used words that the other man had never heard before. And so they could not work together, and the Tower of Babel was never finished.

Then God sent the people from this land and scattered them over all the earth, before they had finished their city. For this reason, and because God made them speak in many tongues, the name of the city was called Babel.

VI

THE STORY OF HAGAR

IN the land of Canaan lived a good man whose name was Abraham. Now, although Abraham was rich and had many things to make him happy, he had one great sorrow; and that was because God had given him no children.

In those days a man could marry more than one wife. Abraham had two wives, one was named Sarah and she was very beautiful; the other wife was named Hagar, and she was a slave.

When Abraham was a very old man God gave him and his wife Hagar a son, and they called the little boy Ishmael. Now although Abraham was very happy when Ishmael was born, the beautiful wife Sarah was angry because God had given Hagar a child and had not given one to her, and she was unkind to the slave woman and made her very sad. Then one day God sent a child to Sarah also and this child they called Isaac.

One day when Isaac was about two years old, Sarah saw Ishmael laughing at her little boy, and she became so angry that she made Abraham send Hagar and Ishmael away.

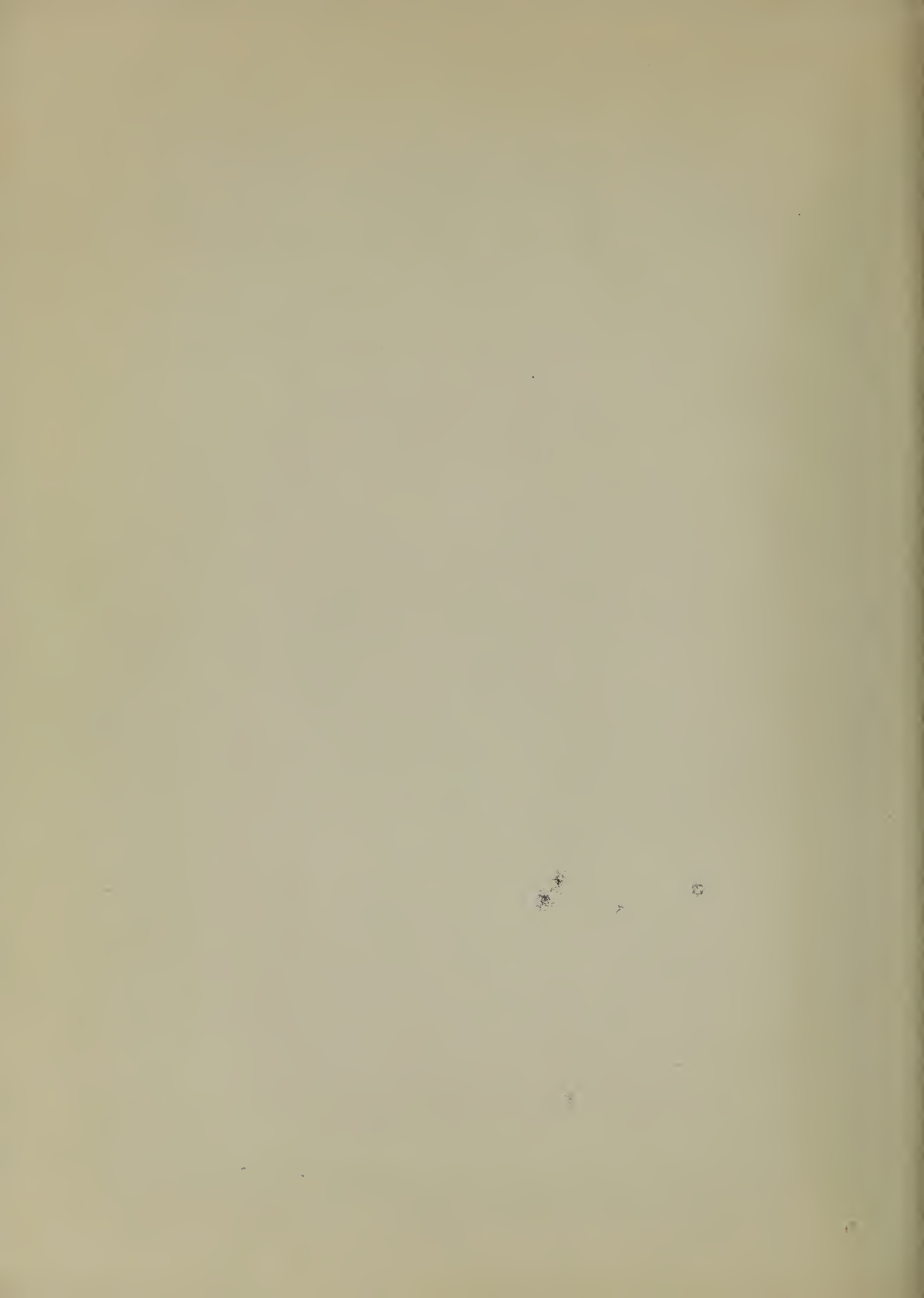
So one day Abraham rose early in the morning, and took some bread and a bottle of water and gave it to Hagar and sent her and Ishmael away.

So they wandered out into the wilderness, and as the day advanced they ate their bread and drank all of the water. The sun was very hot and the little child wanted more water, but there was none for him. Then Hagar took him and laid him in the shade under a bush, and while he lay there crying she went a little way from him so that she need not see him die.

As she sat there weeping, an angel came to her and told her not to be afraid, and he told her to look, and there a little way from where she sat, was a well of water. And she ran and filled her bottle, and gave some to Ishmael to drink. And God was with Ishmael and blessed him, and he lived there in the wilderness with his mother until he became a man.



HAGAR, NOT KNOWING WHICH WAY TO GO, WANDERED ABOUT FIRST ONE WAY AND THEN ANOTHER



VII

ABRAHAM'S OFFERING

THE little baby Isaac, whom God had sent to Abraham, was a big boy now, and Abraham loved him very much. But more than any one else he loved God. In those far off days, when a man loved God and wanted to do something to please him, he would take a lamb and lay it upon an altar made of stones. Then he would kill the lamb and would call this an offering to God.

One day Abraham thought that God would be pleased if he placed little Isaac on the altar and offered him to God. So he took the little boy by the hand and led him out over the green fields and up into a mountain. There he gathered some wood, and taking Isaac, he tied his hands and laid him on the wood upon the altar. Then he took out the sharp knife he carried, but as he leaned over his little boy the voice of an angel called to him and said, "Abraham, Abraham, do not hurt your little boy. Do not touch the lad. In the bushes behind you, you will find a ram, take that and offer it instead."

So Abraham untied Isaac and was very happy when he

knew that God did not want him to make an offering of his little boy. And the angel spoke again to Abraham, and told him that because he had loved God so much, God would bless him and would give him cattle and great riches. Then the angel went back to heaven, and Abraham took Isaac down the mountain and back to his own home.

VIII

ISAAC AND REBEKAH

THE years passed, and Isaac became a man and old enough to be married. So one day Abraham called his chief servant and told him that he must go back to the country where he had lived when he was a child, and from that country he must bring back a young girl to be the wife of his son Isaac.

So the servant took gifts of gold and ten camels with him, and rode away. He rode on and on for a long time, until at last he came to the city of Nahor, where he stopped beside a well near the city gates. And as he waited, he prayed to God and said, "Let the maiden who will make a good wife for Isaac answer me when I ask for a drink of water; let her say to me, 'Drink, and I will give your camels drink also.'" While he was praying a beautiful girl named Rebekah came to the well, and when he saw her with a jar of water on her shoulder, he asked if she would give him some to drink. And Rebekah said to him, "Drink, and I will give water to your camels also." And she ran and filled the trough for the camels.

Then the servant was glad because he knew that God had

sent Rebekah, and he took the golden earrings and bracelets, and put them on her; and he asked if there would be room in her father's house for him to spend the night. Rebekah said that there was room, and she ran and told her brother Laban, and he came out to meet him and took him to his father's house.

When they entered, supper was ready, but before the servant would eat, he told them that he had come to that city to find a wife for his master, Isaac. Then he told her mother and brother of his meeting with Rebekah at the well, and asked them if they were willing to have her go back with him to marry Isaac. And they answered that God must have sent Rebekah to the well to meet him, and that they would let her go. "Rebekah is here," they said, "take her and go, and let her be your master's wife."

So following the servant the next morning, Rebekah rode away on the back of a camel. After riding for a long time, they came to the land of Canaan.

And in the evening Isaac came out into the fields to watch the sun set, and as he raised his eyes he saw the camels coming.

Then Rebekah saw Isaac, and said to the servant, "What man is this who is coming to meet us?"

And the servant answered, "It is Isaac." Then Rebekah stepped down from her camel and she covered herself with a veil and went to meet him. When they stood side by side,



REBEKAH, YOUNG AND BEAUTIFUL, CAME OUT OF THE CITY GATE AND WENT DOWN TO THE WELL

the servant told Isaac all that he had done. And Isaac loved Rebekah, and together they went into his mother's tent and she became his wife.

IX

THE STORY OF JOSEPH

IN the land of Canaan there lived a rich man named Jacob who had twelve sons. Jacob loved his children dearly, but more than all the others he loved his son Joseph, who was a young boy of seventeen years.

Jacob owned hundreds and hundreds of sheep, and in the morning his ten older sons would take them out to the pastures where they could find plenty of grass to eat.

The two younger sons, Joseph and Benjamin, did not go to the pasture lands with their brothers. Often Joseph would sit gazing across the fields, planning to do great things when he became a man.

One night he dreamed a strange dream, and in the morning he said to his brothers, "I dreamed last night that we were in the fields binding sheaves of wheat, and my sheaf rose up and stood very straight, and your sheaves stood all around and bowed down to mine."

Then his brothers were angry and said to him, "Do you think that you are going to rule over us?"

A few nights after this Joseph had another dream, and in the morning said to his father and brothers, "Last night I

dreamed that the sun and the moon and eleven stars bowed down before me.”

Then his father too was angry and said, “Shall I and your mother and brothers bow down to the earth before you?”

One day Jacob’s sons stayed away so long with their flocks that he became worried, so he asked Joseph if he would go to look for his brothers and see if they and their flocks were all right. So Joseph put on a beautiful coat of many colors that his father had given him, and off he started. First he looked in the fields near his home, but could not find them. So he wandered on and on, until at last he met a man who had seen them and who told him where to go.

While he was yet a long way off his brothers saw him coming in his coat of many colors, and they hated him and said to one another, “Here comes the dreamer, let us kill him and throw him into a pit, then we will see what will come of his dreaming.” But his oldest brother, Reuben, would not let them kill him. So they took off his beautiful coat and lowered him into a pit.

Not long after that some men on camels came riding that way,—they were going down to the land of Egypt to sell spices,—and the brothers called to the men, and they took Joseph from the pit and sold him as a slave. And the men took him and put him on a camel and rode away.

Then the brothers killed a little goat and dipped Joseph’s beautiful coat in it’s blood, and took it to their father Jacob

and said, "We found this coat; did it belong to your son Joseph?" When Jacob saw the coat covered with blood he wept and tore his clothes and said, "It is my son's coat; some wild beast has killed him."

X

JOSEPH IN EGYPT

THE men who had bought Joseph took him to Egypt and sold him to Potiphar, who was a captain of the guards of the prison. One day Potiphar became angry with Joseph and put him in the prison, but even there God watched over him and helped him.

In the prison were two men who had once worked in the king's palace; one had been King Pharaoh's chief butler, and the other his chief baker. The keeper of the prison gave Joseph charge of these two men, and one morning when he brought them their breakfast they told him that they had each had a strange dream of which they could not tell the meaning.

Joseph said, "Tell me your dream."

And the chief butler said, "I dreamed that I saw a vine with three branches on it, and the branches blossomed and became clusters of ripe grapes, and I took the grapes and pressed the juice into a cup and gave it to King Pharaoh."

Then Joseph said, "This is the meaning of your dream; in three days Pharaoh will take you out of prison and make you his butler again, and you shall serve him his wine as you did before."

When the chief baker heard this, he said, "And do you know the meaning of this? I dreamed that I was walking with three baskets on my head, and in the top basket were many good things to eat that I had baked, and the birds came and ate out of the basket."

And Joseph said, "This is the meaning of your dream; in three days Pharaoh will take you from prison and will hang you on a tree until you die, and the birds will eat you."

And in three days everything happened as Joseph had said. The chief butler went back to the palace and the chief baker was hanged.

Two years passed, and Joseph was still in the prison, when one night King Pharaoh had a dream, and he called all the wise men in Egypt and asked them the meaning of it, but no one could tell him. Then suddenly the chief butler remembered Joseph, and he told Pharaoh of his own dream and of how Joseph had told him the meaning of it. Then the king sent for Joseph, and he washed and put on fresh clothes and came and stood before him.

And Pharaoh said, "Last night I dreamed that I stood on the bank of a river, and seven fat cows came up out of the river and began to eat in the meadow, and as I watched, seven poor thin cows (such as I have never seen in the land of Egypt) came up after them; and the thin cows ate up the fat ones, and when they had eaten them they were still thin.



BEHOLD THERE COME SEVEN YEARS OF GREAT PLENTY THROUGHOUT ALL THE LAND OF EGYPT, AND THERE SHALL ARISE AFTER THEM SEVEN YEARS OF FAMINE

And I dreamed again, and I saw seven full ears of corn come up on one stalk, then seven thin blasted ears came up on the same stalk, and the seven thin ears spoiled the seven good ears. And I wakened and told my dream to the wise men, but no one could tell me it's meaning."

Then Joseph said to King Pharaoh, "God has shown you what He will do in the land of Egypt. Both dreams mean the same thing. For seven years so much grain will grow in the land of Egypt that there will be more than we can use, but after the seven years of plenty, seven years of famine will follow, when nothing at all will grow in the whole land and the people will be hungry and will cry for bread. Now let Pharaoh find some man who is wise, and set him over the land to put away the food and to save it in the seven years of plenty."

And Pharaoh saw that Joseph was a wise man and that God was with him, and he made him ruler over all the land of Egypt. He took a ring from his finger and put it on Joseph, and he put a gold chain around his neck and gave him beautiful clothes and a chariot to ride in. As Joseph rode through the streets all the people bowed before him. For seven years he was very busy riding through all the land, and building great barns and filling them so full of grain that no more would go in them.

Then came a year when nothing would grow; and year after year the fields were bare, and the people were hungry

and came crying to Pharaoh. And he sent them to Joseph, and Joseph opened the barns and sold them food.

Far away in the land of Canaan where Joseph's father and brothers lived, there was also famine. When Jacob learned that there was corn stored in the land of Egypt he sent down all of his sons except little Benjamin, to buy corn of Pharaoh. When the brothers came to the city they were sent to Joseph's palace, and they bowed themselves down to the earth before him.

Now Joseph knew his brothers, but they did not know him, and he said to them, "You men are spies."

And they said to him, "Nay, my lord, but to buy food are thy servants come. We are twelve brothers, the sons of Jacob. Our brother Benjamin is now with our father, and one brother is not. We are true men; we are not spies."

And Joseph said to them, "If you are true men, let one of you stay here, in prison,—because I fear God I will send the rest of you back again to your homes with food for your families,—but bring to me your little brother Benjamin, that I may know that you speak the truth."

So the men left their brother Simeon in the prison and started back with their sacks of grain to their father. When they had traveled a little way one man opened his sack, and there in the top of it was the money that he had paid for the corn. And as they looked, each man found his money in his sack.

When they told their father what had happened to them in Egypt; how they had left Simeon in prison, and that the governor of the land had asked to see Benjamin, Jacob said, "Joseph is dead and Simeon is in prison, therefore I will not let Benjamin leave me."

But as the weeks passed and the food was almost gone there was nothing else to do but to go again to Egypt for grain. So Jacob kissed Benjamin, and in great sorrow let him go with his brothers. And he said to them, "God Almighty give you mercy before the man, that he send back to me my two sons." And taking little Benjamin with them, they went down again to the land of Egypt.

When Joseph saw his brothers returning with Benjamin he sent a servant to ask them to take dinner with him at noon that day. Then Joseph had Simeon taken out of prison, and they all went to Joseph's palace.

When he saw them he said, "Is your father well, the old man of whom you spoke? Is he still alive?"

And they answered, "He is well."

When he saw Benjamin he said, "Is this your younger brother? God be gracious unto you, my son."

And he felt great love for Benjamin and his eyes filled with tears and he hurried into another room and wept. When he had washed his face he went out to them again, and at dinner he gave to Benjamin five times as much to eat as he gave the others.

When they had finished and gone out, Joseph told a servant to put back the money in each man's sack, after it had been filled with corn; and he said, "Take my silver cup and put it in the top of Benjamin's sack."

Next morning the brothers started home, and they felt very happy as they traveled along. But they had gone only a little way when they heard some one coming behind them, and turning around, they saw Joseph's servant, and he said to them, "Why do you steal my master's cup, when he was so good to you?"

They said to him, "We are not thieves; look in our sacks and the man in whose sack you find it shall become your slave."

So the servant began with the oldest brother and looked in each sack until he came to Benjamin's, and there he found the silver cup.

When his brothers saw this they were sad, and Judah said, "Let me become your slave instead of Benjamin, for if we return home without our youngest brother our father will surely die."

But the servant said, "No, you shall all come back with me to Joseph."

So they went back to the palace, and Joseph stood before them and said, "I am your brother Joseph, do you not know me? You sold me as a slave when I was a little boy and Pharaoh has made me ruler over all Egypt."

Then the brothers remembered Joseph's dreams and they were glad. And Joseph sent his brothers to bring Jacob and their wives and children back to the land of Egypt. When they returned home and told the glad news to their father, he could not at first believe it; but when he saw the wagons that Joseph had sent, he said, "It is enough; Joseph my son is yet alive. I will go and see him before I die."

So he and all his family returned to the land of Egypt, and as long as King Pharaoh lived he was very kind to Joseph and to all of his people.

MOSES IN THE BULRUSHES

THE people of Israel still lived in the land of Egypt although Israel and Joseph and his brothers had been dead for many years. The king who had ruled in Egypt when Joseph lived was also dead, and another King Pharaoh now sat on the throne and ruled the people.

This king was not a good man and one day he planned to kill all the little boy babies as soon as God sent them to the people of Israel. So the people grew afraid to let the Egyptians know when a new baby came to them.

One day a beautiful child was born, and when his mother saw how lovely he was she hid and would let no one see him, but when he became three months old she could not keep him hidden in her home any longer, so she took a basket and rubbed slime and pitch over it so that the water could not leak through, and she put her little boy in the basket and laid it in the river among the rushes and flowers.

Now the daughter of Pharaoh came to the river to bathe, and when she saw the basket she asked one of her servants to bring it to the shore and open it. So they lifted the lid, and there lay the beautiful baby. When Pharaoh's daughter

saw him, she loved him, and one of her maidens said, "Shall I go and get a nurse for you that she may take care of the little one?" and Pharaoh's daughter said, "Go." So she ran and brought the baby's own mother, although no one else knew who the nurse was.

And Pharaoh's daughter took the child and its mother to her own home and made him her son. And she said, "Because I drew him out of the water, I will name him Moses."

XII

MOSES LEADS THE PEOPLE THROUGH THE RED SEA

YEAR after year passed and the children of Israel became slaves and worked for the Egyptians.

When Moses became a man he left the land of Egypt and worked as a shepherd in another country. One day when he was in the fields he saw a burning bush, but although the flame was in its branches, the bush did not burn up. This seemed so strange to Moses and he stopped to watch it. And as he looked he heard the voice of God speaking from the bush.

God said, "Moses, Moses."

Moses answered, "Here am I."

Then God told him that He had seen how cruel the Egyptians were to the people of Israel. He said that Moses must go back to the land of Egypt and tell King Pharaoh that God said he must let the people of Israel go free. But Moses was afraid to go alone, so God sent his brother Aaron with him to talk to the king.

So Moses and Aaron went to King Pharaoh and told him what God had said. But the king was angry and would not

let the children of Israel go. Instead, he made them work much harder.

Then God sent great trouble to the Egyptians. First he turned the water in all the rivers into blood, and the people had no water to drink. But Pharaoh would not let them go.

Then he sent frogs all over the land which got into their beds and their food. One thing after another God did to punish the Egyptians, but still the king would not let the people go.

Then one day God told Moses to tell each family of the children of Israel to kill a lamb and roast it for their suppers, and to take the blood of the lamb and mark with it the two side posts on the doors of their homes; because that night an angel was coming to punish the Egyptians, and seeing the marks of blood upon the Israelites' doors would pass over them and kill only the Egyptians.

So the Israelites did as Moses told them and marked their doors with blood. At midnight the angel came, and seeing the mark passed over them; but in the homes of the Egyptians he killed the firstborn, the oldest child; from the firstborn of Pharaoh in the palace, to the poorest Egyptian in the land.

When Pharaoh saw all this death and sadness he sent for Moses and Aaron and told them to take all of the children of Israel, and all their flocks of sheep and herds of cattle and leave the land of Egypt. So that great company of men and women and little children, started on their way.

They traveled until they came to the shore of the Red Sea. There they rested, and suddenly, as they looked back, they saw the Egyptians coming to capture them again. There were six hundred chariots and a whole army of soldiers, and Pharaoh was leading them. Then the frightened people ran to Moses. And God spoke to him and said, "Lift up your rod and stretch out your hand over the sea and divide it."

So Moses did as God told him, and the waters parted. There was a dry road through the middle of the sea and the children of Israel passed over it to the other shore.

Then the Egyptians followed after them to the middle of the sea. And God spoke again to Moses, and he stretched forth his hand over the sea and the waters came together again and covered the road, and all of the Egyptians were drowned.

God went before the children of Israel to lead them to the promised land that was to be their home. In the day time He went before them in a cloud, and at night in a pillar of fire.



WITH THE BLOOD OF THE LAMB EACH MAN WAS TO MAKE A MARK, THAT THE ANGEL OF DEATH MIGHT PASS OVER EVERY HOUSE SO MARKED

XIII

GOD MAKES WATER SPRING FROM A ROCK

AS the children of Israel traveled through the wilderness they came to a part of the country where there was no water. The people were thirsty and spoke against God, and they said to Moses, "Did you bring us up out of Egypt to let us die of thirst here in the wilderness?"

Moses spoke to God and said, "What shall I do?"

And God said, "Take your rod in your hand, and I will stand before you upon a rock in Horeb, and you shall strike the rock with your rod, and there shall water come out of it."

So before all the tribes of Israel Moses struck the rock, and water flowed from it and the people drank. And they traveled on, and came to the wilderness of Sinai.

God told Moses to have the people bring gold and silver and wood and fine linen, and of these things they must make a box which was to be called the ark of the testimony.

So the people did as Moses asked them, and they built the ark and put upon the ark a mercy seat made of pure gold.

And God said to Moses, "There on the mercy seat I will meet and talk with you."

And God told Moses to go up into Mount Sinai so that he

could talk alone with him. A heavy cloud covered the mountain, and Moses went up into the cloud and the glory of God was around him. God gave him the Ten Commandments to be a law to the people to teach them how to serve Him. He gave Moses two tablets of stone upon which the laws were written.

When the people saw that Moses stayed so long in the mountain, they grew restless, and said to his brother Aaron, "Make us a god that we may worship it."

So Aaron forgot the real God and he said to the people, "Take the golden earrings from the ears of your wives and your sons and daughters and bring them to me." And they brought the earrings to Aaron and he made a golden calf.

And the people said, "This shall be our God."

Then Aaron built an altar to the false god and the people worshiped at it.

As Moses came down from the mountain carrying the tablets of stone, Joshua, who was one of the chief men of the tribes of Israel, met him and talked with him. And Joshua heard the people shouting, and said to Moses, "There is a noise of war in the camp."

And Moses answered, "It is not crying, but singing that I hear."

When they came into the camp and saw the people worshiping the golden calf, Moses was very angry and threw

the tablets of stone and broke them. Then he took the golden calf and burnt it with fire and ground it to powder, and threw the powder into the water and made the people drink it. After that the people worshiped the real God.

And the Lord said to Moses, "In the morning go up again into Mount Sinai, and take with you two tablets of stone like the ones that were broken, and I will write again upon the tablets the ten commandments that were on the first."

Moses rose early and went up into Mount Sinai, and he wrote on the tablets the words of the Ten Commandments.

For a long time the children of Israel traveled in the wilderness and carried the ark of God before them. Then one day they saw before them the beautiful land that God had promised to give them for their home.



E. CURTIS

THE SONS OF LEVI WENT AHEAD AND CARRIED THE ARK IN THE JOURNEY THROUGH THE WILDERNESS

XIV

THE SPIES SENT OUT

AND the Lord spoke to Moses and told him to send spies into the land of Canaan that they might see what the land was like. So Moses took twelve men, one from each tribe of Israel. And he said to them, "Go up into the mountain and see the land. See if the people there are strong and whether they live in tents or in houses in walled cities. And gather of the fruit of the land that we may know if it is good or bad."

So the spies went into the land of Canaan, and after forty days they came back to the people of Israel, and they carried with them one cluster of grapes so large that two men carried it on a stick upon their shoulders. And they said to Moses and Aaron, "The land of Canaan flows with milk and honey and this is the fruit of it. But although it is a good land, the people who live there are very strong, and the cities are walled and very great."

When the children of Israel heard this, they were afraid to go into the promised land. But one of the spies named Caleb was not afraid, and he said to the people, "Let us go up at once and take the land. for we are able to get it."

Of the twelve spies, Caleb and Joshua were the only ones who were not afraid. The other ten said, "The land is not good, and the people there are giants. They are so much taller than we, that we look like grasshoppers beside them."

Then the people were so frightened that they would not go into Canaan; and to punish them for not trusting Him, God made them wander for forty years in the wilderness.

THE FALL OF JERICHO

IN the fortieth year after the children of Israel had left the land of Egypt, the Lord spoke to Moses and told him to go up into the mountain in the land of Moab, near the city of Jericho, and from there he could look into the land of Canaan. And Moses went up into the mountain, and there below him on the other side of the River Jordan lay the beautiful promised land.

There in the mountain Moses died, and for thirty days the children of Israel wept because he was no longer there to lead them.

Then the Lord spoke to Joshua and said, "Moses my servant is dead; so arise and take with you all the children of Israel, and cross the river Jordan and enter into the land that I have given them."

So Joshua told the people to be ready on the third day, and the priests of God took the ark, and when their feet touched the waters of the River Jordan, the waters rose up in a heap and left a dry path through the river. And the Israelites crossed over and camped in the plains of Jericho.

Now Jericho was a city with a great wall around it, and

the people of Jericho closed the city gates so that no one could go in or out from it. And God spoke to Joshua and told him that the children of Israel were to have the city. He told him to have all the people march around the city once each day for six days, and on the seventh day to march around it seven times.

So Joshua did all that God told him. The armed men he sent first; then seven men with trumpets made of rams horns marched before the ark of God, and behind the ark came all the tribes of Israel. On the first day while the priests blew the trumpets, the people marched around the city once, and returned to their camp. They did this each day for six days, but on the seventh day they rose early in the morning and marched around the city seven times.

On the seventh time that they went around the priests blew loud blasts upon their trumpets, and Joshua said to the people, "Shout! for the Lord has given you the city." Then the priests blew on the trumpets and the people shouted with a great shout, and the walls of the city fell down, and the children of Israel went up into the city and took it.

XVI

THE STORY OF SAMSON

ONCE upon a time a young man named Samson loved a maiden who lived in the land of the Philistines. So one day he went with his father and mother to ask her father if he might marry her. As he walked along the road a young lion rushed out and roared at him, and with his bare hands Samson took the lion by the throat and killed it. Then he went on his way.

As he came back over the same road he saw a swarm of bees in the body of the lion that he had killed, and he ate some of the honey and took some to his father and mother.

After his marriage, while he sat at his wedding feast, he made a riddle, and said to his guests, "If you can guess my riddle within seven days I will give gifts to you all, and if you cannot guess it you shall give me gifts instead."

Then Samson told his riddle and said, "Out of the eater came forth meat, and out of the strong came forth sweetness."

No one could guess what the riddle was, and later his guests came to Samson's wife, and said to her, "If you do



F. CHOATE

SAMSON, SEIZING THE LION IN HIS STRONG ARMS, KILLED HIM AS EASILY AS HE WOULD A MOUSE.

not make Samson tell you the riddle we will burn down your father's house."

When Samson and his wife were alone she said to him, "You do not love me or you would tell me the riddle." And she asked him again and again, and cried so much, that at last Samson told her. Then she went and told the answer her friends.

On the seventh day they came to Samson and said to him, "What is sweeter than honey and what is stronger than a lion?" So they gave the answer to the riddle and Samson had to give them all gifts.

When Samson knew that his wife had told her friends the answer to the riddle he was very angry.

After this the Philistines did many unkind things to Samson. So one day to punish them, he caught three hundred foxes and tied their tails together, and fastened to their tails burning sticks. Then he drove the foxes into their fields of corn, and set fire to all that was in the fields.

After that he left their country, but when the Philistines saw what he had done they went to the land of Judah where Samson was, and told the men of Judah that they had come to take him. The men of Judah went to Samson and told him, and although God had made him so very strong, he allowed them to tie his hands with a strong rope, and they brought him to the Philistines. When they saw him coming, bound, they laughed at him and mocked him, and sud-

denly he seemed to grow even stronger than he had been before, for he broke the ropes from his hands as though they had been threads, and he was once more a free man.

XVII

SAMSON AND DELILAH

FOR many years the children of Israel went to Samson when they were in trouble and Samson judged them. But the people in the countries around them were afraid of Samson, and once when he went to a place called Gaza the men of that city heard that he had come and they said, "In the morning, when it is day, we will kill him."

This city had a stone wall around it, and at night after the big gates were locked, no one could leave until they were opened in the morning. But Samson knew that the men of Gaza wanted to kill him, so at midnight he went out and tore away the heavy gates from the wall and, putting them on his shoulders, he carried them to the top of a hill.

At another time he went to the house of a woman called Delilah, and when the Philistines saw that Delilah was a friend of Samson's, they came to her and offered to pay her a great deal of money if she would find out how they could take Samson's strength from him, so that they could kill him.

So the next time that Samson came to her house Delilah asked him what made him so strong. At first he would not

tell her, but at last, after she had coaxed and coaxed him, he told her that he was strong because he had let his hair grow so long, and had never cut it. Then Delilah sat beside him until he went to sleep, and while he sat with his head on her knees she sent for the Philistines, and when they came, a man cut off all of Samson's hair. Then Delilah called to him and said, "The Philistines be upon thee, Samson."

And he wakened and stood up, but his strength had left him. And the Philistines took him and put out his eyes and cast him into prison.

While he worked in the prison his hair began to grow again, and one day when the Philistines were holding a feast, they sent for Samson that they might laugh at him and mock him. When they brought him to the house it was full of men and women, and he stood between two large pillars that held up the house. And Samson said to the boy that led him by the hand, "Let me feel the pillars with my hand."

Then he called to God and said, "Oh Lord God, remember me and strengthen me, only this once." And he placed his hands on the two middle pillars, one on the right side and the other on the left. Then he bowed himself and pushed with his great arms, and the pillars broke apart and the house tumbled down and killed all of those wicked men and women.

XVIII

THE STORY OF RUTH

A CERTAIN man with his wife, Naomi, and his two sons, went to live in the country of Moab. And Naomi's husband and her two sons died. Naomi was left with no one to care for her but her sons' wives. So she said to them, "I will return to Bethlehem, my own country, but you, my daughters, return to the house of your mother."

But Ruth and Orpah loved Naomi and wept when she asked them to leave her. But at last Orpah kissed her and went away.

And Naomi said to Ruth, "Your sister-in-law has gone back to her own people, why do you not also go?"

And Ruth said to her mother-in-law, "Entreat me not to leave you, or to return from following after you, for where you go, I will go; and where you lodge, I will lodge; your people shall be my people, and your God, my God."

Naomi was glad when she saw that Ruth would not leave her alone in her old age, so together they returned to Bethlehem. When they reached the city all of Naomi's old friends gathered around her and were glad to see her again.

They had come to Bethlehem at the harvest time, when the barley was ripe, and one morning Ruth said to Naomi, "I will go to the fields with the gleaners and gather the barley that the men do not want."

So she went out and came to the fields owned by Boaz, who was a kinsman to her husband. As Ruth gathered the grain Boaz came into the fields, and he said to his reapers, "The Lord be with you."

They answered, "The Lord bless you."

When he saw Ruth gathering grain beside the reapers he asked them who she was, and when they told him how she had left her own home to care for Naomi, he went and spoke to her, for he was pleased because she had been so kind. And he said to her, "Stay and eat your lunch in the fields with us to-day."

And he told the reapers to leave more of the grain behind them as they worked so that Ruth could gather it. All day she worked in the fields, and when she started home she was surprised to see how much barley she had gathered.

When she reached home she told Naomi how kind Boaz had been to her, and showed her the barley. Naomi too was glad for they were poor and had very little to eat.

Day after day while the harvest season lasted, Ruth went to glean in the fields, and Boaz watched her as she worked and learned to love her.

Now Naomi had a piece of land that she wanted to sell,



RUTH WORKED DILIGENTLY UNTIL EVENING FELL

and according to the law it must be sold to the nearest relative in her husband's family. So although Boaz was a relative and wanted to buy the land, he could not do so unless another man, who was a nearer kinsman than he, would not buy it.

So Boaz went to the city gate and sat there waiting. In a little while he saw the other kinsman coming, and he said, "Ho, turn aside, sit down here."

Then he called ten men of the city and said, "Sit ye down here."

Then he told them of the land that Naomi would sell. And he said to the other kinsman, "Buy it if you will, but if you will not; tell me, and I will buy it, as I am nearest in kin after you."

The man said, "You may buy the land for I cannot."

Then Boaz said to the people, "I will buy all that belonged to the husband of Naomi and her two sons, and I will take Ruth to be my wife."

Then the people at the gate said, "We are witnesses to all that you have said."

So Boaz married Ruth, and they took care of old Naomi and were very good to her. And one day God made them very happy by sending them a little son, whom they called Obed. And Obed became the grandfather of king David.

XIX

THE STORY OF A LITTLE BOY WHO SERVED IN THE TEMPLE

THERE was a man of Mount Ephraim whose name was Elkanah, and he had two wives. The name of one was Hannah, and the name of the other Peninnah. Peninnah had children but Hannah had none.

Once every year Elkanah with his wives and children, left the city to take gifts to the temple of God at Shiloh. While they were there, Elkanah gave portions to his wives and to his sons and daughters, but to Hannah he gave an extra portion because he loved her more.

At dinner Hannah sat and wept, and could not eat. And Elkanah said to her, "Why do you weep, and why do you not eat? Is your heart grieved? Am I not better to you than ten sons?"

When they had finished eating, Hannah went weeping to the temple, for she was very sad. And she prayed to God and said, "Oh Lord of Hosts, if you will look on my sadness and remember me and will give me a son; then I will give him to the Lord all the days of his life."

When she had finished praying she felt happy, and the priest said to her, "Go in peace, and the God of Israel give you what you have asked of him."

Then Hannah left the temple, and in the morning, after Elkanah and his family had worshiped God, they returned to their own home.

The months passed and Hannah was no longer sad, for God remembered her, and one day sent her a little son. And his mother named him Samuel.

Now Hannah remembered her promise to God, and while Samuel was still a very little boy, she took him to Eli, the old priest at the temple. And she said to him, "I am the woman who stood weeping and praying here at the temple, and God heard my prayer and sent me a son. Now, therefore, I have brought him to lend him to the Lord, to serve Him in the temple all the days of his life."

So Samuel helped Eli in the temple, and every year his mother came to see him and brought him a little coat that she had made.

Now Eli was so old that his eyes were dim and he could not see. One night after he and Samuel had laid down to rest, God spoke to little Samuel, and he answered, "Here am I," and he ran to Eli and said again, "Here am I, for you called me."

But Eli said, "I did not call you, lie down again." And he went and lay down.

Again God called him, and he rose and ran to Eli and said, "Here am I, for you did call me."

But again Eli said, "I called not, my son, lie down again."

Now Samuel did not know that God had called him and he lay down again. And God called as before, and he ran to Eli and said, "Here am I, for you did call me."

Then Eli knew that it must be the Lord who was calling. And he said to Samuel, "Lie down again and if the voice calls, answer and say, 'Speak, Lord, for your servant hears.'"

So Samuel lay down, and God spoke again and said, "Samuel, Samuel."

Then Samuel answered "Speak, Lord, for your servant hears," and God talked with Samuel.

After that God was with Samuel at all times, and he became a prophet and a wise, good man, and for many years he judged the children of Israel.



“WHAT IS THE THING THAT THE LORD HATH SAID UNTO THEE?” DEMANDED ELI

SAUL IS MADE KING

ONE day when Samuel was an old man the people of Israel came to him and said that they wanted a king to rule over them. Now before this God alone had been their king, so at first Samuel did not know what to say to them, and he asked God about the matter, and God told Samuel to let the people have a king.

Now there was a young man named Saul, and some of his father's donkeys strayed away, and his father sent him with a servant to look for them. For a long time they looked, but could not find them, so Saul said to the servant, "Come, let us go home, or my father will think that we too are lost."

And they were near the city where Samuel lived, and he said, "There is a man of God living in this city, let us speak with him and perhaps he can tell us the way home."

Now the day before, God had told Samuel that he should meet Saul this day, and that Saul was to be made king over Israel. When Samuel saw him coming, God spoke again and said, "This is the man of whom I spoke to you."

When he came near, Saul asked Samuel where the prophet lived, and Samuel said, "I am the prophet. Come with me to my house, for I have many things to tell you."

So Saul spent the night with Samuel, and the next morning when he started home Samuel walked a little way with him, and he told Saul that God would make him king over Israel. And he took oil and poured it over Saul's head, and kissed him.

Then he said to him, "To-day, after you leave me, you will meet two men, who will say to you, 'The asses which you went out to seek are found, and your father is worried for you.' And as you go a little further you will meet three men going up to God to Beth-el; one will be carrying three kids, another three loaves of bread, and the other a bottle of wine. They will speak with you and will give you two of the loaves of bread. Further on as you come near the camp of the Philistines you will see a company of prophets coming down the hill, and you will join them and will prophesy with them."

Then Samuel left Saul, and he went on his way. And everything that Samuel told him would happen, came to pass.

Then Samuel called together all the tribes of Israel to a place called Mizpeh. And from among the tribes he selected the tribe of Benjamin, and from that tribe the family of Matri was chosen. But when they searched among them

for Saul, he was not with Kish, his father, and they could not find him.

So Samuel asked God what he should do, and God told him that Saul had hidden among the tents and wagons. So they searched and found him and they brought him before the people.

When Saul stood up he was taller than any of the other men, and Samuel said, "See the man whom the Lord has chosen to be king, there is none like him among all the people."

And when the people saw him they shouted and said, "God save the king."

Then Samuel sent them away, and they took Saul to Gilgal and there they made him king.

THE STORY OF DAVID

FOR many years Saul ruled over the people of Israel, but he was not a good king, and God was not pleased with him. So one day God called Samuel and told him to go to Bethlehem to the home of a man named Jesse. For from among his sons God had chosen one to be king in the place of Saul.

So Samuel went to Bethlehem and told Jesse what God would do; and Jesse called together his sons. When Samuel saw one of the older sons, called Elaib, he thought to himself, this must be the man whom God has chosen to be king. But God said to him, "Look not on him, because I have refused him."

Then Jesse made seven of his sons walk before Samuel, and he said to Jesse, "The Lord has not chosen any of these, are all of your children here?"

And Jesse answered, "All are here but my youngest son David; he is in the fields watching the sheep."

And Samuel said, "Send for him." And they brought David before Samuel. He was a strong, beautiful boy, and Samuel was pleased.

Then God said to him, "Arise, anoint him; for this is he."

So Samuel took a horn of oil and anointed him. But it was not yet time for David to rule over the people, though from that time the spirit of God was with him. So, as before, he went to the fields to watch his father's sheep.

At this time Saul was not well, and because he had been a bad king, God seemed to have forgotten him. He was restless and often angry with the people of his household. So one day his servants said to him, "If you had some one come to play to you upon a harp when you are unhappy and cannot rest, we believe that the music would make you well." And they added "In Bethlehem there lives a young man who plays sweet music on the harp."

So Saul sent to Jesse at Jerusalem, and said, "Send me your son David, who is with the sheep." So they brought him to the king, and Saul loved David and was soothed by his music.

DAVID AND GOLIATH

WHILE David was still very young, war broke out between the children of Israel and the Philistines, and they gathered their armies together; the Israelites on one hill, and the Philistines facing them on another. And there was a valley between them.

Now three of David's brothers were in Saul's army, but because David was so young, he went back to Bethlehem to watch his father's sheep. One morning David's father sent him with some food to give to his brothers. When he reached the place where the army waited, he left his wagon and ran in among the soldiers.

As he stood talking with his brothers, a giant named Goliath left the camp of the Philistines, and he called to the Israelites and said, "Why does your whole army come out? Choose a man and send him to fight with me, and if he can kill me we will become your servants; but if I kill him the people of Israel shall be our servants."

And they looked at the great giant clothed in his heavy armor and carrying his big sword; and they were afraid and ran from him. And David said "What will be done to

the man who can kill this giant, for who is this Philistine, that the armies of God fear him?"

'And the soldiers answered, "The king will give his daughter and great riches to the man who can kill Goliath."

So David took his staff in his hand and gathered five smooth stones and put them in his shepherd's bag; then with only a sling in the other hand, he went out to meet Goliath.

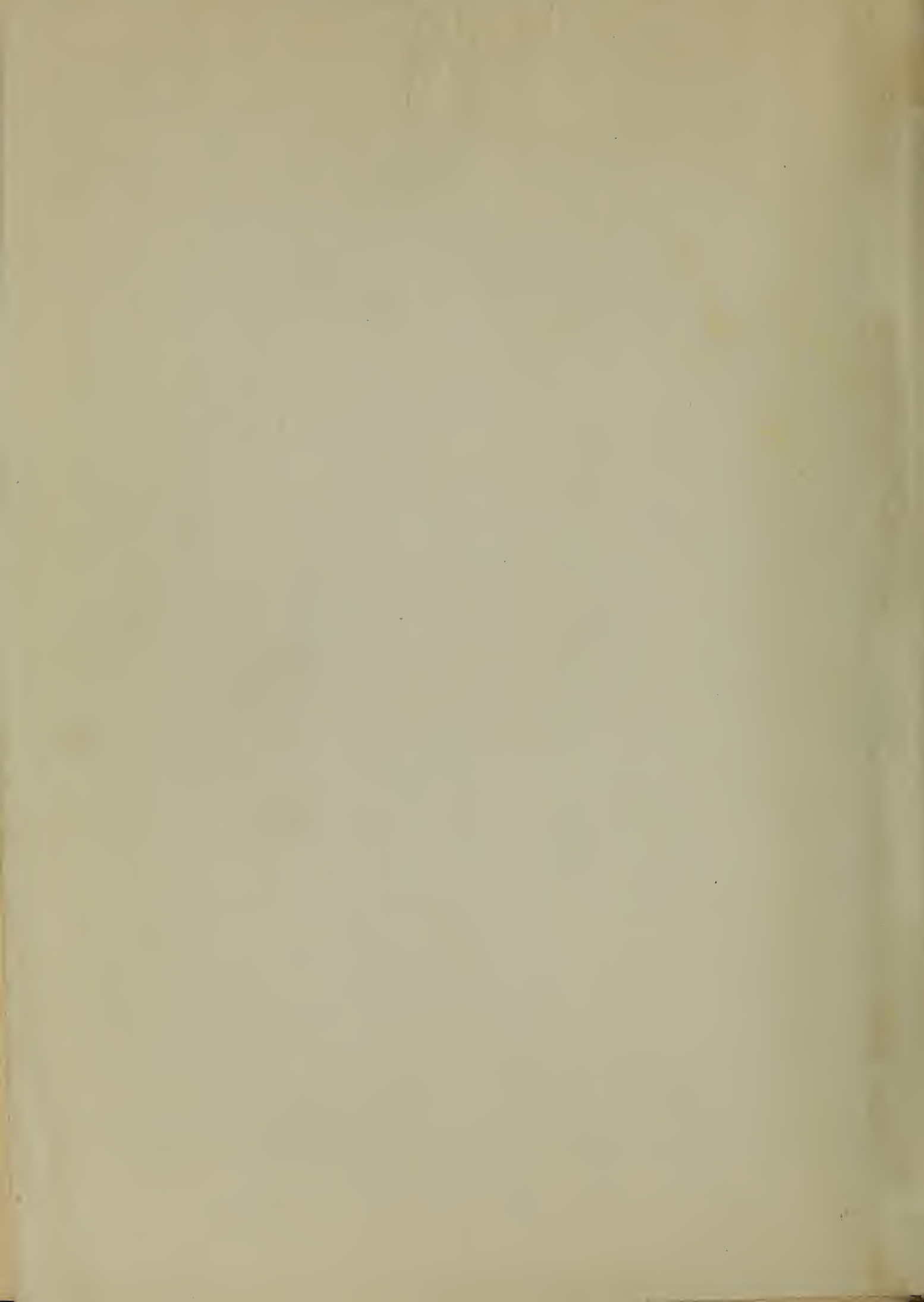
When Goliath saw David coming with his staff in his hand, he said, "Am I a dog, that you come to me with a staff?"

And David ran toward the giant, and he put his hand in his bag and took out a stone and threw it from his sling, and the stone struck Goliath in the forehead and he fell upon his face to the earth.

Then David ran and took the giant's sword and cut off his head. And he took the head to king Saul, and the king made him captain over his army,



DAVID WITH GOLIATH'S OWN SWORD CUT OFF THE PHILISTINE'S HEAD



XXIII

DAVID AND JONATHAN

AFTER David was made captain of the army he did not return to his father at Bethlehem, but went out with his soldiers to fight against the Philistines. When they had won the battle and Saul and David and all the soldiers returned from the war, the women of Israel came dancing and singing to meet them, and they sang, "Saul hath slain his thousands, and David his ten thousands." And Saul became very angry because they said that David had killed more of the enemy than he. But Michal, Saul's daughter, loved David and she became his wife.

One day as David played on his harp before the king, Saul's anger rose so against him, that he threw his spear at him, meaning to kill him, but David moved out of its way, and it did not strike him.

That night David fled from the king's house, and went to his own home, and the king sent men to watch him so that he could not get away. And David's wife said to him, "If you do not go away to-night, to-morrow my father will have you killed."

So she let David down from a window, and he fled from the city and went to see Samuel at Ramah. Then David's wife took an image and put goat's hair on it's head and put it in David's bed. And when Saul's servants came to take him to the king, she said to them, "He is sick."

They went and told Saul. But he sent again for David and said to the servants, "Bring him to me in the bed, that I may kill him."

So they came to his house and went up to his room. But David had gone and only the image lay in the bed.

Then Saul was very angry, and said to his daughter, "Why have you let my enemy escape?"

Now Jonathan, the king's son, loved David more than anyone else on earth. And after David had been a little while with Samuel, he went away and came to see Jonathan. And he said to him, "What have I done, why does your father hate me and want to take my life?"

And Jonathan said, "God forbid; you shall not die. If my father intends to kill you, he will surely tell me, for he talks with me about everything that he intends to do. And why should he hide this thing from me?"

But David said, "He knows that you are my friend, so perhaps he does not wish you to know that he is trying to find me to kill me. To-morrow I sit at the king's table, but let me go and I will hide in the fields for three days, and if your father misses me say that I have gone to Bethlehem. If he

says, 'It is well, David shall have peace,' then we need not be afraid, but if he is very angry, we will know that he intends to do me harm."

The Jonathan said to him, "This is the way that I will show you if my father intends to harm you: in three days from now I will come out into the fields with a boy, and I will shoot three arrows from my bow as though I were shooting at a mark. Then I will say to the boy, 'Go and find the arrows.' And if I say to him, 'they are on this side of the tree,' it will mean that my father will not harm you, and you can come and live with us again. But if I say to the boy, 'Behold the arrows are beyond thee,' you will know that the king means to kill you. So go your way, for the Lord has sent you away."

So David hid in the fields and Jonathan went to the king's table. The first day, when David did not come king Saul said nothing about it, but on the second day when David's place was still empty, Saul asked his son where he was. And Jonathan said to his father, "He asked me to let him go to Bethlehem." Then Saul became so angry that he threw his spear at Jonathan, and Jonathan too, was angry and rose from the table and would not eat.

DAVID AND JONATHAN PART

IN the morning Jonathan took his bow and arrows and went with a boy out to the fields. And he shot his arrows, and as the boy ran to pick them up he called to him and said, "The arrows are beyond you, make haste, stay not." And the boy brought them to his master, and Jonathan said to him "Go, carry them to the city."

As soon as the boy had gone David came from his hiding place, and he and Jonathan kissed and wept because they must leave one another. And Jonathan said, "Go in peace. The Lord be between me and thee." Then David went his way, and Jonathan returned to the city.

David went to the priests of the temple at Nor, and he asked for food and a sword, and the priest gave him the holy bread from the temple and the sword which had belonged to the giant Goliath.

For many years after this David lived in the wilderness. He hid in a cave, and men who were unhappy or poor came to him and learned to love him, and he became captain over four hundred men. And Saul and his soldiers went out to find David to kill him.

One day, as David and some of his men were hiding in a cave, Saul came into it, and as the cave was dark, he thought that it was empty, and he lay down and fell asleep. Then David's men wanted him to kill Saul while he slept, but David cut off the lower part of the king's gown and would not harm him.

When Saul wakened and saw that David had spared his life he wept and was sorry that he had tried to kill David. But in a little while he forgot David's kindness and went out with three thousand men to capture him.

Then some men of Israel came and told Saul that their old enemy the Philistines were coming to fight them, so Saul stopped searching for David and went to fight the Philistines. And as they fought Saul was wounded and died, and Jonathan and two of his brothers were killed.

When David heard that Saul and Jonathan were dead, he tore his clothes and wept. And he said, "Ye daughters of Israel weep for Saul. How are the mighty fallen in battle! I am distressed for thee my brother Jonathan: very pleasant hast thou been unto me: thy love to me was wonderful. How are the mighty fallen, and the weapons of war perished."

And David left the wilderness and went back to live among his own people. And when he was thirty years old he was made king.

King David lived in Jerusalem which is called the city

of David. For forty years he ruled wisely, and the people loved him. And he wrote many beautiful songs in praise of God.

THE STORY OF A WISE KING

KING David had ruled over Israel for forty years, and he was now an old man and no longer able to rule, so he made his son Solomon king over the people. After this king David died.

And king Solomon had a dream, and in the dream God spoke to him and said, "Ask what I shall give you."

And Solomon answered, "Oh Lord my God, give me an understanding heart that I may rule wisely over these people, and that I may know good from evil."

And God was pleased because Solomon had asked for wisdom to rule over the people, and not for riches, or anything for himself. And he said to Solomon, "I shall give you the wisdom that you ask for, and I shall also give you what you did not ask for; I shall give you riches and honor, so that as long as you live there shall be no other king as great as you."

So Solomon became great and wise, and the kings from other countries heard of his wisdom and came to visit him.

And two women came to the king as he sat on his throne; and one said to him, "This woman and I live together in

the same house and we each had a baby, and in the night the child of this woman died, and while I slept she took my baby and put it in her bed and she put her dead baby in my bed, and when I wakened in the morning I saw that the dead baby was not my son."

Then the other woman said to her, "No; but the living child is my son, and the dead one is yours."

And king Solomon said, "First one says 'the living child is mine, and the dead one is yours,' then the other says, 'no, the dead child is yours, and the living one, mine.'"

And the king said, "Bring me a sword." And they brought him a sword, and he said, "Cut the child in two, and give part to one woman, and part to the other."

Then the mother of the living child said to the king, "Oh! my lord, give her the living child and do not hurt him."

But the other woman said, "Let it be neither mine nor thine, but divide it."

Then the king knew that the mother of the living child was the woman who would not let it be killed, and he said to his servants, "Give her the living child and do not hurt it, for she is his mother."

When the people of Israel heard of the wisdom of their king, they knew that God was with him.

XXVI

KING SOLOMON BUILDS A TEMPLE

FOR a long time king Solomon had planned to build a temple where the people of Israel could go to worship God. So he sent to Hiram, the king of Tyre, and said, "I purpose to build a house unto the name of the Lord my God. Now therefore command your men, and I will hire them that they may cut down cedar trees out of Lebanon, and my servants shall work with your servants to bring cedar and fir trees for the building of the temple."

So king Solomon sent thirty thousand men to cut down trees, and other men he sent to work in the hills, and they brought great stones to lay for a foundation. And they laid the foundation within the walls of Jerusalem, upon Mount Moriah.

So he built the temple and furnished it. The walls and the floor were made of cedar, and on the walls, both inside and out, were wonderful carvings of angels and palm trees and open flowers. Then he overlaid the whole building with pure gold. He built an altar, and overlaid it with gold. And next to the altar he built a place to set the ark of God

upon. He had made from the olive tree two angels, and covered these also with gold. The wings of the angels were so long that they touched the walls on both sides of the room. They were placed so that the ark of God could stand between them.

King Solomon spent eleven years in building the temple, and when it was finished he called together the chief men of Israel, and they brought the ark of God from Mount Zion, which is another part of the city where David had lived. The priests brought the ark and placed it in the inner room between the two angels. And when the priests came out of the holy place, the glory of God filled the temple, and all the people of Israel with King Solomon before it.

And the king turned to the people and blessed them. Then he turned and kneeled before the altar and raised his hands to heaven, and in a beautiful prayer, he said, "Oh Lord my God, harken to the prayer of thy servant and of thy people Israel, when they shall pray towards this place: and when thou hearest, forgive."

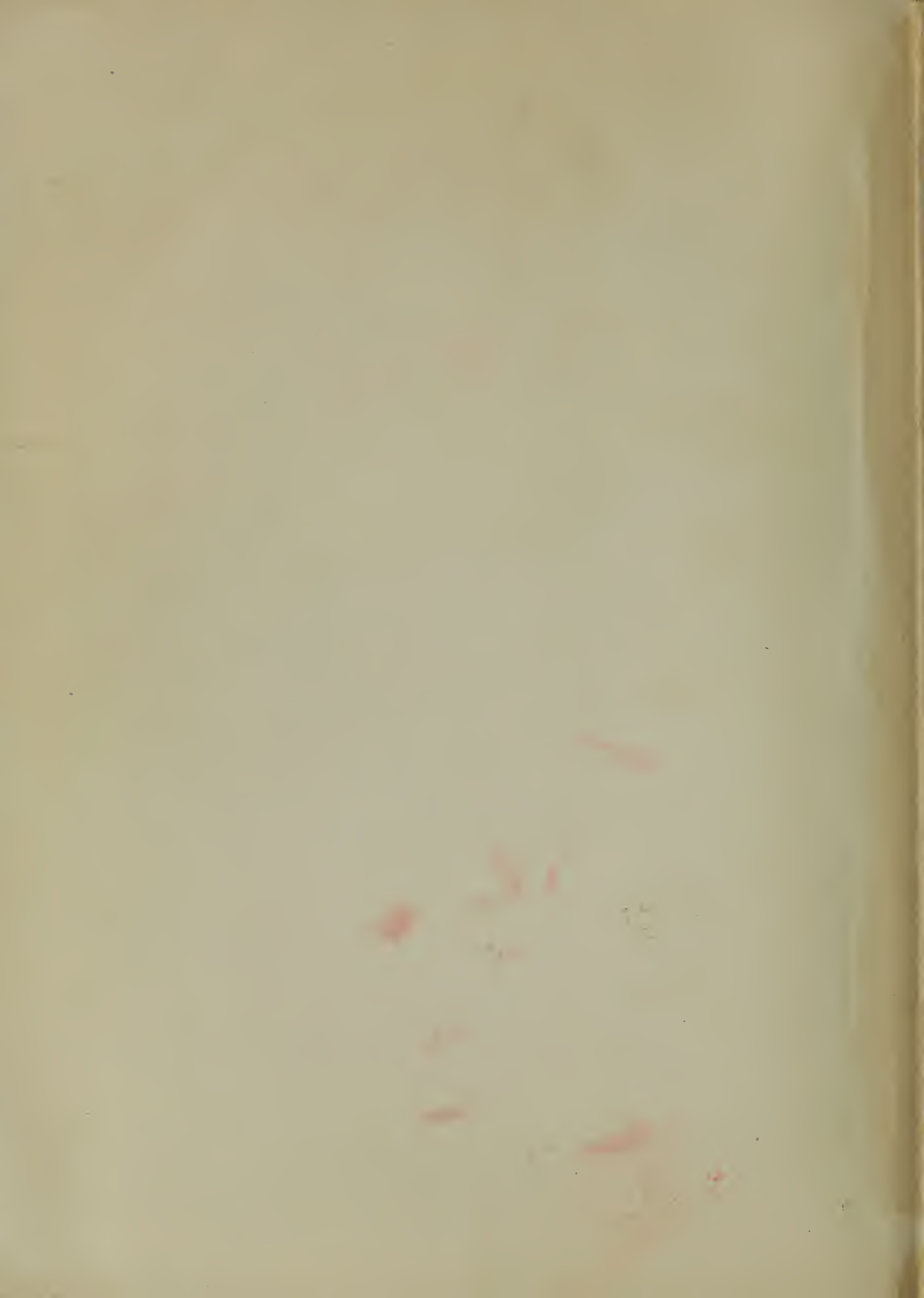
When the king had finished praying, he stood up and blessed the people with a loud voice.

So the king and all the children of Israel dedicated the house of the Lord. Then he sent the people away, and they blessed the king and went to their tents joyful and happy of heart for all the goodness that God had done.

After the beautiful temple was built, the wisdom and



WHEN THE QUEEN OF SHEBA CAME TO VISIT SOLOMON, SHE WAS ASTONISHED AT HIS MAGNIFICENCE



glory of King Solomon was spoken of in many countries. And the Queen of Sheba heard of this wonderful king, and she came to Jerusalem with camels and spices and gold and precious stones for a gift to the king. And when she saw his wonderful palace and his many servants and the rare food upon his table, and when she had seen how very wise he was, she was surprised, and glad that she had come. Then after she had visited for a little while, and given wonderful presents to the king, she and all her servants went back to their own country.

XXVII

THE STORY OF ELIJAH

WHEN Ahab was king over Israel, he and all the people became very wicked, and they forgot the real God and worshiped an idol called Baal.

Now there was a prophet named Elijah who still loved God, and God sent Elijah to king Ahab to tell him that he was going to punish the people by not sending any rain to the land while they were so wicked. So far a long time no rain fell and the rivers and brooks dried up, and the people had not enough water to drink. Then God told Elijah to go to a brook near the River Jordan, and there he found water to drink, and the birds brought him food to eat.

After a little while that brook also dried up, and God told Elijah to go to the city, and there he would find a woman who would give him food and drink.

So Elijah went, and as he came to the city gate he saw a woman gathering sticks. He asked her for some water and a little food, and the woman said to him, "I have only a handful of meal left in a barrel, and a little oil. I am gathering these sticks to cook a cake for myself and my little boy. After that we must die because we have nothing more to eat."



'ELIJAH DWELT ALONE IN THE WILDERNESS. THE RAVENS BROUGHT HIM FOOD AND HE DRANK THE WATER OF THE BROOK'

But Elijah said, "Go and bake me a cake, and after that, make one also for yourself and your son, for God has promised if you do this, that he will keep meal in your barrel and oil in your cruse until he sends rain to the earth so that food will grow again."

So the woman did as she was told, and as fast as she used the meal, more came into the barrel. And for a long time Elijah stayed with her and they had plenty of food.

One day the woman's little boy became ill and died, and she came to Elijah and told him that her son was dead, and he said to her, "Give me your son."

He took the child to his own bedroom and laid him upon the bed. Then three times he stretched himself upon the body of the child, and he called to God and said, "Oh Lord my God, I pray thee, let this child's soul come into him again."

And life came again to the child, and Elijah took him down to his mother and said, "See, thy son is alive."

XXVIII

ELIJAH GOES TO HEAVEN IN A CHARIOT OF FIRE

ONE day Elijah went to king Ahab and he told the king to call together the children of Israel, and when they stood before him he asked them why they did not worship the real God instead of the idol, and he said to the people, "Let the priests of the idol bring two bullocks, and we will make two offerings, one to God, and one to the idol Baal; and we shall lay wood upon the altars, and our offering upon the wood. Then the priests of Baal shall call to their god, and I will call on the Lord, and the real God will send fire to His offering. By this you will all know who is the real God."

So the priests of Baal put their offering on an altar. Then from morning until noon, they prayed to the idol, but it was not God, and so no fire came.

The Elijah put his offering upon the other altar, and he poured water upon it, and he called to God and said, "Hear me, oh Lord, hear me, that this people may know that you are the Lord God."

Then God sent fire and burnt up the offering and the wood and even the stones of which the altar was made. And when the people saw it, they fell on their faces and said, "The Lord, He is God; the Lord, He is God."

After that they prayed to the real God, and God sent rain once more to the land, and grain grew again in the fields, and the people were happy.

One day Elijah went out with a good man whose name was Elisha and fifty men went with them. When they came to the River Jordan, Elijah struck the water with his mantle and the river parted and he and Elisha crossed over on dry land, but the other men stayed on the other side and watched them. And as they watched, God sent a chariot and horses of fire, and Elijah went in the chariot up to heaven.

XXIX

THE STORY OF QUEEN ESTHER

ONCE upon a time there lived a great king named Ahasuerus, and he had a feast made ready and asked every one at the palace to the feast, and he showed the people all the wonder of his riches. After the feast had lasted for several days, he sent seven of his chief ministers to the queen and asked her to put on her royal crown and come and stand before him so that all the people might see how beautiful she was. But Queen Vashti would not do as the king asked, and they told him that she would not come.

Then the king was very angry and said to his ministers, "According to the law, how may I punish the queen for not coming when I sent for her?"

They said to the king, "Let her no longer be your queen, but let us bring some young maidens before the king, and let him choose one from among them to be his queen."

The king and princes were pleased when they heard this, and said to bring the maidens to the palace.

At the king's palace lived a Jew whose name was Mor-

decai. For many years he had taken care of his cousin Esther because she was young and her father and mother were dead. When Mordecai heard that the king wanted to choose a beautiful maiden for his wife, he called Esther and sent her with the others, to stand before king Ahasuerus. And when the king saw her, he loved her and made her his queen.

One day as Mordecai was sitting at the palace gate he heard two men planning to kill the king, and he went to queen Esther and told her that the king's life was in danger. So the queen told the king, and the bad men were hanged. And it was written in the king's book, that Mordecai had saved his life.

Living at the king's palace, was a vain, proud man whose name was Haman. He was one of the king's chief ministers, and as he went about the palace and gardens the people bowed before him. But Mordecai the Jew would never bow to Haman as he passed him when he went through the palace gates. And Haman grew very angry when he saw that Mordecai would not even rise, when he passed. And because Mordecai was a Jew, he decided to have all the Jews in that part of the country killed.

So Haman went to the king and told him that there were some people in the land who did harm to the country because they would not obey the king's laws, and Haman said to him, "If it please the king; let it be written that all of these



AS SOON AS THE KING SAW HER HE CHOSE HER AS HIS QUEEN

Jews are to be killed, and I will see that the thing is done.”

And the king believed what Haman told him and said that he might have all the Jews killed. Then Haman had papers written and sent to all the towns and cities in that country, saying that on the thirteenth day of the twelfth month the Jews must die.

When Mordecai heard of this he went and stood outside of the king's gate and wept, and Esther's maids came and told her of it. And Esther sent for Mordecai, but he would not go in; but sent her the paper telling of the day that the Jews must die. He told Esther's minister to ask her to go to the king and ask him to save the lives of her people, for the queen, too, was a Jew. So the queen sent word again to Mordecai, that she would ask the king to help her.

Then the queen dressed herself in her most beautiful royal robes and stood in the inner court of the king's house. King Ahasuerus was sitting on his throne, and when he saw the queen standing before him, he held out to Esther the golden scepter that was in his hand. And he asked her why she had come.

Esther told the king that she wished him to bring Haman with him, and come to a feast that she had made for them.

When Haman heard that the queen had asked him with the king to her feast, he was very happy and told his friends all about it. “But,” he said, “with all this honor shown to me, that Jew at the gate never bows before me.”

And his friends said, "Let a gallows be made, and tomorrow when you see the king, ask him to have Mordecai hanged upon it."

That night the king could not sleep, and he asked to have the book of records read to him, and as they read they told of how Mordecai had saved the king's life by warning him when the two men planned to kill him. And the king said to the man who was reading, "What honor was given to Mordecai for saving my life?"

The servant answered, "Nothing was done for him."

And the king said to his servant, "Who is in the court?" and he answered, "Haman is waiting in the court."

And the king said, "Let him come in."

So Haman came in, and the king said to him, "What shall I do for a man whom I wish to honor?"

Now Haman thought to himself, "It must be I whom the king wishes to honor, so he said, "Let the royal robes which you used to wear be put upon this man, and let your crown be placed upon his head; then seat him upon the king's horse and let one of your most noble princes lead this man through the city streets and say to the people. 'Thus shall it be done to the man whom the king delighteth to honor.'"

Then the king said to Haman, "Make haste and take the robes and my horse and place Mordecai, the Jew, upon it, and lead him through the streets."

Haman was angry when he knew that it was the Jew

whom the king had been speaking of, but he did as the king told him and led him on the king's horse through the city.

After Haman went home and sat telling his wife what had happened, a messenger came and told him to hurry to the queen's feast.

So he went with the king to the queen's table, and as they sat eating and drinking, the king said to Esther, "What can I do to please you?"

Esther answered, "Oh king, let my life and the life of my people be saved, for in a little while, every Jew is to be killed."

And the king said, "Who is he, and where is he, that dares to do such a thing?"

Then the queen said, "He is seated here at the table with us; it is this wicked Haman."

Then Haman was afraid before the king and queen. And the king rose from the table in his anger. And his servants told him that Haman had built a gallows to hang Mordecai, and the king ordered the servants to take Haman and hang him instead.

Then the king made Mordecai one of the chief men at his palace, and he changed Haman's order so that none of the Jews were harmed. And queen Esther and all of her people lived happily in that country.

THE STORY OF DANIEL

IN the third year of the reign of Jehoiakim, king of Judah, Nebuchadnezzar, the king of Babylon, came to Jerusalem and made war against the children of Israel and took the city. And Nebuchadnezzar made the king of Judah his captive, and he took the gold and silver cups from the house of God and brought them to his own city. And he sent one of his chief men to bring to the king's palace at Babylon, the wisest of the princes of Israel. So they brought Daniel and three other children from Jerusalem, to live at the king's palace.

Some years after this, king Nebuchadnezzar had a strange dream, and he sent for his wise men, and said to them, "Tell me what I have dreamed, and tell me the meaning of the dream."

And the wise men said, "Oh king, live forever; tell us your dream, for we cannot tell you its meaning, unless you tell us first, what you have dreamed."

Then the king was angry and said, "I will not tell you what I dreamed, because you will not give me the true meaning of it. If you can first tell me what I dreamed,

and will then tell me what it means, I will know that you are speaking the truth. But if you cannot do this, I will have you all killed and your houses destroyed.”

But none of the wise men could answer, and word was sent through the city that all the wise men must die.

When Daniel heard this he went to his three friends, Shadrach, Meshech, and Abednego; and told them to pray that God would tell them the dream, and the meaning of it. And one night God told Daniel what the king had dreamed. And in the morning Daniel went to one of the king's chief men, named Arioch, and said to him, “Do not kill the wise men of Babylon, bring me before the king and I will tell him the meaning of his dream.”

So the man took Daniel to Nebuchadnezzar, and Daniel said to him, “The wise men could not tell you the meaning of your dream, but there is a God in heaven who has sent you this dream to show you what will come to pass.

“In your dream you saw a great bright image, it stood before you and the form of it was terrible. The head of the image was of fine gold, his breast and arms of silver, his thighs of brass, his legs of iron, and his feet were part of iron and part of clay. And as you looked, a great stone struck the image that was made of iron and clay, and it broke them to pieces. Then the whole image fell down and broke into tiny pieces and the wind blew them away. But the stone which struck the image became a great moun-

tain and filled the whole earth. Now that is your dream, and the meaning of it is this: God has given you a great kingdom and power and glory. Wherever men live, you are ruler over them all. In your dream the image was sent to show how the kingdom would change. You are the golden head of that image, and after you, another king not as great as you will rule, after that a third kingdom of brass, then a fourth kingdom which shall be as strong as iron, and the feet and toes of the image which were of iron and clay shall be a divided kingdom, partly weak and partly strong; and as iron and clay will not mix, neither shall the people of that kingdom live peacefully together. And in those days the God of heaven shall set up a kingdom which shall never be destroyed: it shall break to pieces these other kingdoms, and it shall stand forever. God has made known to the king what shall come to pass."

Then the king fell on his face and worshiped Daniel. And he made him a great man in his kingdom. And Daniel asked the king to help his three friends; so he set Shadrach, Meshech and Abednego, over the affairs in Babylon.

One day Nebuchadnezzar made an image of gold and put it in the plain of Dura. And he sent word to all the people that when they heard the cornet and flute and the harp and all kinds of music, they must bow down and worship the golden image. The king said if they did not worship the image, they should be thrown into a fiery furnace.

So when the music sounded, most of the people did as the king commanded, but some of his servants saw three men who would not pray to the image. And the servants came to the king and said, "There are three Jews whom you have set over the affairs of Babylon, and when the music sounded, they would not worship the image that you have set up."

Then the king was very angry because the three men, who were Shadrach, Meshech, and Abednego, had not obeyed him. And he told his servants to heat the furnace seven times more than it had been heated. Then they took Shadrach, Meshech, and Abednego and threw them into the fire. The fire was so hot that the servants who threw them in, were killed by the flames.

In a little while the king looked into the furnace and he said to some of his men: "Did we not throw three men into the fire?"

And they answered, "True, oh king."

And the king said, "I see four men loose, and walking in the fire, and the fire does not burn them, and the form of the fourth man is like the son of God."

Then Shadrach, Meshech, and Abednego, came out of the fire, and not even the hair on their heads was burned. And the princes and governors and captains looked at them in surprise.

Then Nebuchadnezzar, the king, said, "Blessed be God

who has sent his angel and delivered his servants who trusted him.”

After that the king was kind to them and made them great men in Babylon.

But as the years passed Nebuchadnezzar grew more and more wicked. He thought that he was greater than God. At last, God had to punish him, and he made Nebuchadnezzar forget that he was a man. His mind became like that of a beast, and he left his wonderful palace and lived out of doors in the fields. The rain fell upon him, and for food he ate the grass of the fields.

At last Nebuchadnezzar knew that God was greater than any man. He saw that God could make the great king of Babylon become like an animal, and that God alone could rule over all things. So the king was sorry for his sins, and he lifted his eyes to heaven and worshiped his creator. Then God sent the king back to his palace to live again like a man, and to rule once more over Babylon.

BELSHAZZAR'S FEAST

WHEN king Nebuchadnezzar died his son Belshazzar became king of Babylon. And Belshazzar made a great feast for a thousand of his friends. While they were drinking wine, the king sent for the gold and silver cups that had been brought from the temple of God at Jerusalem, and they drank from the temple cups.

As they sat feasting, a hand appeared and wrote upon the wall some strange words. And the king saw the hand as it wrote and he became frightened and called his wise men to ask the meaning of it, but no one could tell him. Then the queen told Belshazzar how Daniel had told the meaning of the dreams of his father, and the king sent for Daniel and said to him, "If you can tell me the meaning of the writing upon the wall, I shall have you clothed in scarlet and made third ruler in my kingdom."

Then Daniel answered and said to Belshazzar, "Oh king, God gave Nebuchadnezzar your father, glory and honor, and all nations feared him, but when he became proud and

did not fear God, God took away his kingly throne and took his glory from him, and he was driven out to live in the fields with the wild asses; and he ate grass like the oxen, and his body was wet with the dew of heaven until he learned that God ruled on the earth and that the king was only God's servant. 'And you, his son, oh Belshazzar, have not humbled your heart, although you knew what happened to your father. You have lifted yourself up against the Lord of heaven, and have brought the cups from the Lord's temple to use at your feast. You have sung praises to gods of silver and gold and brass. Such gods cannot see, nor hear, nor know, and the real God, in whose hand your breath is, him you have not praised. Then God sent His hand to write upon your wall, and the meaning of that writing is this, 'God hath numbered thy kingdom, and finished it. Thou art weighed in the balance and found wanting. Thy kingdom is divided, and given to the Medes and Persians.' "

When Daniel had finished speaking, the king had a scarlet robe put upon him and a gold chain put around his neck. And he made him third ruler in his kingdom.

That night a man named Darius came from an enemy country, and with his soldiers he took the city of Babylon and king Belshazzar was slain.

DANIEL IN THE LIONS' DEN

WHEN Darius became king over Babylon he put over the kingdom one hundred and twenty princes to help him rule over the people. Over the princes he put three presidents, and Daniel was the chief man among them. All the business of the city was brought to him by the princes.

Now the princes hated Daniel because the king was so good to him. And they tried to see if Daniel had done any wicked deed that they might tell it to the king. But they could find nothing against him. They knew that Daniel was a good man and that he prayed each day to God; so they went to the king and said to him, "King Darius, all the presidents and princes and governors have talked together, and have written that whoever shall ask anything of God or man except of you, oh king, he shall be cast into the den of lions. Now, oh king, sign this writing that it may become a law, and may not be changed."

So the king signed, and it became a law that for thirty days no man should pray except to the king.

Now when Daniel knew that the writing had been signed,

he went into his house to pray, and he prayed to God three times each day.

Then the men who hated Daniel, came to his house and found him praying to his God, and they went to the king and told him that Daniel had broken the law.

Then the king was sorry, because he loved Daniel, and he tried all that day to think of some way to save him. But in the evening the princes came to him again and said, "The law of the Medes and Persians is, that no law which the king has made, can be changed."

Then the king had Daniel brought and they cast him into the den of lions. And the king said to Daniel, "Your God whom you serve so well, he will save you."

Then the king returned to his palace, but he could not eat, and all that night he lay awake thinking of Daniel. And early in the morning he dressed and hurried to the lions den. When he drew near, he was very sad, and he cried to Daniel, "Oh Daniel, servant of the living God, is the God whom you serve able to save you from the lions?"

Then the king heard Daniel's voice, and Daniel said to the king, "Oh king, my God has sent His angel, and has shut the lions' mouths, and they have not hurt me."

Then the king was very glad and told the servants to take Daniel from the lions' den. And they took him out and found that he was not hurt in any way because he had trusted and believed in God.

XXXIII

THE STORY OF JONAH

THERE was once a city named Nineveh, and the people who lived in it were very wicked. So God spoke to his servant Jonah and told him to go to that city to teach the people how to be good.

But Jonah did not want to go to Nineveh, and he tried to hide from God, so he went down to Joppa, to the seashore, and found a ship that was going to Tarshish. He paid his fare and went to sea in the ship.

When they had been sailing for a little while, God sent a storm over the sea; the wind blew, and the great waves rose, and the sailors were afraid that the ship would go to pieces and that they would all drown. And one of the sailors said, "Let us cast lots that we may know whom to blame for this awful storm."

So they cast lots, and the lot fell on Jonah. And the sailors said to Jonah, "Tell us why this evil has come to our ship?"

Then Jonah told them that he had run away and had not done as God told him, and the sailors said, "What shall we do to you to make the sea calm again?"

Jonah was sorry because he had made them all suffer, and he said to them, "Take me and throw me into the sea, for the storm is on the water, because I am here."

But the men did not want to do this, and they tried and tried to row the ship to the shore, but they could not. When they saw that they could not reach the shore, they took Jonah and threw him into the sea, and at once the wind stopped blowing, and the storm ceased.

But God was there on the water, and He sent a whale to swallow Jonah, and Jonah lived in the whale's stomach for three days. Then the whale swam to the shore, and opened its mouth, and Jonah was cast out upon the dry land.

After this he did as God told him, and went to Nineveh and told the people that because they were so wicked, God was going to destroy the city.

Then the people were sorry and began to be good, and the king came down from his throne, and took off his royal robes, and sent word to all the people that they must pray to God and ask Him to save them and their beautiful city.

God was sorry for them because they were not wise, and because they were trying to be good, so He saved their city.



JONAH WAS GIVEN ANOTHER CHANCE, FOR A GREAT FISH SWALLOWED HIM, AND FOR THREE DAYS HE WAS ALIVE WITHIN THE FISH

THE NEW TESTAMENT
OF
OUR LORD AND SAVIOUR
JESUS CHRIST

WHILE SHEPHERDS WATCHED THEIR FLOCKS

ONE night, long, long ago, two travelers stopped at the door of a little inn that stood in the town of Bethlehem. One was a young woman who rode on the back of a donkey, and beside her a man walked.

They had come a long way and the woman was very tired, but when they asked to spend the night at the inn, the keeper told them that there was no room for them and that they would have to go farther. Then when he saw how tired the young woman looked, he said to the man, whose name was Joseph, "I have a nice warm stable, if you and your wife will sleep there, you may do so."

So Joseph and his wife Mary, went to the stable to sleep.

In the night a wonderful thing happened to Mary: God sent a little baby to her, and this baby was God's own son. And the mother wrapped him in swaddling clothes and laid him in a manger.

That same night some men were in the fields watching their sheep. The night was quiet and the sheep were quiet,

so the men (who were called shepherds) sat down on the grass to talk together, and while they were talking the sky above them opened and a wonderful light shone on them, and they were afraid. Then the beautiful voice of an angel said to them, "Fear not, for I bring you good tidings of great joy." Then the angel told them that a Savior, who was Christ the Lord, was born that day in the city of David.

Now, a savior is some one who will save people. People who are bad, or poor, or who need help in any way.

The angel told them that they would find the baby in a stable, lying in a manger. Then, while they were listening, the sky was filled with angels, and they sang with their beautiful voices, "Glory to God in the highest, and on earth, peace, good will toward men."

When the angels had finished their song and gone again into heaven, the night was once more quiet and only the moon gave them light. So the shepherds began talking of the wonderful things they had heard, and they said, "The angel told us that this baby was born in Bethlehem. Let us go quickly into the town and see this thing that God has told us of."

Then the shepherds hurried into the town and found, lying in a manger, the little baby Jesus. There he lay in a stable with the cows and donkeys in some of the stalls, and his mother was leaning over him, smiling. The shepherds looked at God's little son and they felt very happy. After



'LET US GO NOW,' THEY SAID, 'EVEN UNTO BETILEHEM, AND SEE THIS THING WHICH IS COME TO PASS'

they had knelt beside him and worshiped him they went out again into the night.

While they were walking back to the fields where they had left their sheep, they sang glad songs and thanked God for all that they had heard and seen that wonderful Christmas night.

MARY NAMES HER BABY JESUS

A WEEK after the angels had told the shepherds that Christ was born, Mary gave her baby his name. Long before this baby was born an angel had come to Mary and told her that God was going to send her son to her, and that when he came she must name him Jesus. So the little baby was given his name.

One day when the weather was warm and little birds sang in the sunshine, Mary and Joseph took the little Jesus on a journey. They walked for six miles along the road which ran through the green fields. And where do you think they were going to take this baby who was only a month old?

They took him to a big church in a city called Jerusalem. They wished to take him to God's house to thank Him for sending that sweet baby to them.

While they were in the church, an old man called Simeon came and stood beside them, and when he saw the little baby he knew that this was God's son, and he took Jesus in his arms, and in a beautiful prayer he thanked God for His goodness.

XXXVI

THE STORY OF THE THREE WISE MEN

MANY months after the little baby had been born in a manger, three Wise Men came riding into this Holy Land. They came riding on the backs of camels, and they looked very beautiful in their white robes and had come a long way.

One night, far away in their own country, these Wise Men had seen a wonderful star shining in the sky. It was much brighter and larger than any other star, and it shone for the first time on Christmas night; and the Wise Men said, "This star shines in the West which is the land of the Jews, by this we know that the King, God's Son has been born. Let us take gifts with us and go and find this King."

So they rode on their camels and followed the star for many nights, and at last came to the city called Jerusalem.

There they stopped and asked where the baby King lived. They said to the people, "We have seen his star and have come to worship him."

But no one on the street had heard of the little king, so the people sent them to King Herod.

Now King Herod was a wicked man, and when the Wise Men told him about the baby king, he was angry because there was another king in the land. And to the three Wise Men, he said, "I do not know where he is, but go and look for him, and when you find him, come to me again and tell me."

Now King Herod wanted to kill the baby king, but he did not tell this to the Wise Men, so they started again on their way, and that night the big star shone again in the sky and the Wise Men were glad. The star went before them to the little town of Bethlehem and stopped. It would go no farther, but shed its wonderful light over the little town.

So the Wise Men stepped down from their camels, taking with them the gifts of gold, frankincense and myrrh which they had brought for the baby king.

And when they went in and found the little Jesus these great Wise Men did what the shepherds had done. They kneeled beside this little child and worshiped him.

In a dream God told them not to let King Herod know where the little king was, so they went back to their homes another way.

XXXVII

THE FLIGHT INTO EGYPT

ONE night after the Wise Men had gone away, while Joseph slept, he had a strange dream. He dreamed that an angel came to him and told him that the king who lived in the big city called Jerusalem was a bad man and wanted to kill little Jesus. And the angel told Joseph to take the child and his mother into another country, into the land of Egypt.

So Joseph, with the baby and his mother, went away that same night while it was dark. Mary rode on the back of a donkey and kept her little one all nice and warm in her arms. So they went from their home by the long roads which wound over the hills, and took them far away.

The baby with his mother and Joseph lived in Egypt until king Herod died. Then one night God again sent an angel to Joseph while he slept, and the angel told Joseph in a dream that the bad king was dead and that he could take the young child and his mother back to their own country.

So they left the land of Egypt and went back to Galilee to a little town called Nazareth.



AN ANGEL SPOKE TO JOSEPH AND TOLD HIM TO GO AT ONCE DOWN INTO EGYPT WITH HIS WIFE AND THE BABY, FOR HEROD WOULD DO HIS BEST TO KILL THIS NEW-BORN JESUS

XXXVIII

CHRIST TALKS WITH THE PRIESTS IN THE TEMPLE

JESUS lived for a long time in Nazareth. He was not a little baby now; he was quite a big boy and used to help Joseph in his carpenter shop. Often his mother sat and watched him while he worked. She used to think, "What a sweet, good boy my little Jesus is, and what a beautiful, kind face he has."

All the little boys and girls who played with Jesus loved him too. Wherever he went he seemed to make people happy.

One day when he was twelve years old, Mary and Joseph took Jesus on a long journey to Jerusalem, because the temple was there. And once every year they went to this big church to attend the Feast of the Passover. The Feast of the Passover was like our Thanksgiving day, but, instead of lasting only one day, this holiday lasted a whole week.

The children who were old enough to go with their fathers and mothers to Jerusalem used to have a merry time on the way. When they started on the road that led to the city a

great many people from the town went with them. And when they felt hungry all that great company of people left the road and sat down in the green fields to eat together.

The moon was always bright at this time of the year, and as it took several days to travel from Nazareth to Jerusalem the people would sing beautiful songs as they sat in the moonlight before going to sleep.

One morning after the light crept back to the world they could see the great church a long way off, and knew that they were nearing the city; and very large and beautiful it looked, there in the sunlight.

At last Jesus, with Mary and Joseph and all the people who had come with them, reached the city and went to God's house, which stood on one of the many hills inside of the city walls.

They spent a whole week there in the city, going each day to God's house for a little while, and visiting people they knew, the rest of the time.

At last the time came for them to start home, and hundreds and hundreds of people left the city that day. Jesus was not with Mary and Joseph when they passed through the city gates, but his mother thought that he was with some of the little friends who loved to play with him. So they traveled all day without him.

They had gone over the Mount of Olives and were almost to another town before they noticed that their little boy was

not with the company. Mary and Joseph went in and out among the people on the road asking about their little boy, but no one had seen him.

It was dark by this time and Mary became frightened, so she and Joseph hurried back to Jerusalem.

They looked for three or four days for the little boy. They searched in this street and that, asking at the houses of all of their friends, but no one had seen Jesus.

On the third day after they had been looking for him, they went to the temple, and there they found him sitting with the wise old men who taught there, and he was both hearing them and asking them questions. 'And every one who heard this wonderful little boy talk, was surprised at the questions he asked and the wonderful answers he gave when the wise men spoke to him.

When his mother saw Jesus she felt sorry that he could sit there so happily when she had looked so long for him and had been so afraid that he was lost. And she said to him, "Son, why did you go away from us like this? Your father and I have been very sad these last three days while we looked for you."

Jesus looked at them out of his lovely clear eyes and said, "Did you not know that I must be about my father's business?"

Then a sweet smile came to his face and he took Mary's and Joseph's hands and went with them back to Nazareth.

JESUS IS BAPTISED

WHEN Jesus grew older he became a very good man. He spent all of his time helping people who were sick and unhappy.

A beautiful river flowed in this holy land where Jesus lived. Beside this river another good man used some times to talk to the people.

This man was called John the Baptist, and God had sent him to tell all the people that Christ was coming.

For many years the Jews had been waiting for Christ to come. They thought that when he came they would be a free nation; that Christ would be king, and that they would no longer be ruled by one who was not a Jew.

John said to them, "Prepare ye the way of the Lord, make his paths straight."

The people would listen to John and would tell him that they wanted to be good and to be ready to follow Christ when he came. Then they would go to the edge of the river and John would baptise them.

One day as John talked to the people a young man came to him and said that he too would like to be baptised.

When John looked at the young man and saw his beautiful face he knew that Christ was speaking to him. So they went to the water's edge and John baptised Jesus.

As Jesus started to leave the water, the sky above him opened and a beautiful white bird flew to him from heaven, and the voice of God spoke and said, "This is my beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased."

XL

THE SERMON ON THE MOUNT

JESUS had twelve friends who were called disciples, who went everywhere with him. They helped him tell the people about God. And the sick people would come, and Jesus would put his hands on their heads and make them well.

One day Jesus had been very busy. First he had gone up on a mountain and a great many people had followed him there. And he talked to them and taught them how to say the Lord's Prayer. He spoke to them for many hours; he told them how to be good and how to make other people happy.

He said that people were like trees, and that all good trees brought forth good fruit, and that trees that were not good, could not bring forth good fruit.

He said that the people who heard him tell how to be good and then went away and tried as hard as they could to be good, were like a man who built his house on a rock; for when the wind and rain came and blew against that house, it would not blow down, because, being built upon a rock, it

was very strong. "But," he said, "the man who hears what I say and does not do what I say, is like a man who built his house on the sand, and when the rain came and the wind blew, that house fell because it was not strong."

All the people were surprised at the wonderful things he said. And when he finished speaking and came down from the mountain, they still followed him.

A sick man came to him and said, "Lord if you will, you can make me well."

And Jesus put forth his hand, saying, "I will; be thou well."

And at once the man was made well.

When the evening came on many, many people brought their sick to him. They brought old people and little children, and every one who needed help. And after Jesus talked to them and laid his hands on them, they were made well.

But some still stayed to hear him speak. When Jesus saw that they waited, he asked his friends, Peter and James, and John, and a few others, to go with him in a boat and sail to the other side of the sea.

It was evening now and after this busy day Jesus was very tired, so he lay down in the ship and fell fast asleep.

While he slept a great storm arose. The rain came down, the thunder rolled, and the waves of the sea came right into the boat. But still Jesus slept.

Then his friends were afraid and called to Jesus to awaken

him, and when he was awake they said to him, "Master, do you not care if we die?"

The ship was full of water by this time, but he stood up and said to them, "Why are you afraid?" And he spoke to the wind and the sea and said, "Peace! Be still!"

And the wind stopped blowing, and the water became so still that it no longer went into the boat. And the little ship went safely to the shore.

THE STORY OF FIVE LOAVES AND TWO FISHES

ONE day Jesus heard that one of his friends (who was called John the Baptist) had been killed by King Herod. When he heard this, the master felt so sad that he went in a ship to a quiet place in the country.

But when the people heard that he had gone away they left the cities and towns and walked for many miles into the country where Jesus was.

Now when Jesus saw this great crowd, he went out to them, and because he was always kind, he made well all those who were sick.

Many hours he stayed there helping the people, and in the evening his friends came to him and asked him to send the people away so that they could go into the towns and buy food for their suppers. But Jesus said to his friends, "You need not send them away, they are tired. Give them something to eat."

Then his friends said to him, "There are over five thousand people here, and we have only five loaves of bread and

two small fishes. How can we feed so many with so little food?"

But Jesus told all the people to sit down on the grass. Then he asked his friends to bring the five loaves of bread and the fishes to him. And he took them in his hands, and looking up into heaven he asked God (his Father) to help him. Then he broke the bread and gave it and the fishes to his friends. And they took it to the people where they sat on the grass, and over five thousand people ate their supper there in the fields. And when they had finished, they gathered up of the food that was left, enough to fill twelve baskets.

XLII

JESUS WALKS ON THE WATER

AFTER Jesus had fed the people, he asked his friends to go in the ship to the other shore. He said that he would stay there, and send the people back to their homes.

After the people went away Jesus went up into a mountain to pray. He stayed there in the mountain talking to God until night came on. By this time his friends in the boat were out in the middle of the sea.

Jesus waited, and when it grew a little later in the night he went out to meet his friends, and he walked on the water all the way from the shore. When his friends saw him walking on the sea they did not know at first who it was, because you see no one had ever before walked on the water, and they were afraid. But when they saw his face and his beautiful smile, and when he spoke to them and said, "Be of good cheer, it is I; be not afraid," then they knew it was Christ.

His friend Peter said, "Lord if it is you, tell me to come to you on the water." Peter thought that he, too, would like to walk on the waves.

So Jesus said to him, "Come."

Peter climbed out of the ship and began walking on the water to where Jesus stood. But when he had gone a little way the wind blew, the waves rose very high and Peter was afraid and began to sink into the water, and he called to Jesus to save him. Then Jesus reached out his hand and caught Peter, and said to him, "Oh you of little faith, why did you doubt me?"

Then Jesus and Peter climbed into the boat and the wind stopped blowing and the water became quiet. And they sailed to the shore and left the boat.

When the men of that place knew that Jesus had come, they sent out to all parts of the country and brought to him all who were sick. And so many came to him that some were able only to touch his clothes, and they too, were made well.

XLIII

THE LITTLE DAUGHTER OF JAIRUS

ONCE while Jesus was in his own city, one of the rulers (whose name was Jairus) came to him and worshiped him, and said, "My little girl is lying dead in my house, but if you will come and lay your hand upon her, she shall live."

So Jesus and his friends went with the man to his house. And when he went in, the little girl's mother and all of the servants were crying and making a loud noise. Jesus told them to stop crying. He said that the little girl was not dead, but asleep.

Then the people laughed at Jesus and said that he did not know the difference between sleep and death.

But when the people were put out of the room Jesus went in and took the little girl by the hand and she stood up alive and well.

XLIV

JESUS IS TRANSFIGURED

ONE day Jesus took three of his friends, Peter, James, and John, up into a high mountain away from all the people. And suddenly Jesus' face became very beautiful and shone like the sun, and his clothes became as white as snow. And as his friends looked, they saw talking with Jesus, two men, Moses and Elias (men who had died hundreds of years before Jesus came to the earth).

Then said Peter to Jesus, "It is good for us to be here."

While he was speaking, a bright cloud covered these three friends, and the voice of God spoke out of the cloud and said, "This is my beloved son, in whom I am well pleased; hear ye him."

When the three friends heard God's voice they were afraid and fell on their faces. Then Jesus came and touched them saying "Arise, do not be afraid."

When they stood up and looked, Moses and Elias had gone, and Jesus stood there alone.

After Jesus came down from the mountain, he stopped to heal a sick boy and to talk to the people. And as he was

speaking, a man stood up and said, "Master what shall I do that I may live forever?"

Jesus said "What is written in the Bible?"

The man answered, that he must love God most of all, and must love his neighbor as himself.

Jesus said "Do this, and you shall live."

"But," the man said, "who is my neighbor?"

To make him understand who his neighbor was, Jesus told him a story.

XLV

THE STORY OF THE GOOD SAMARITAN

A CERTAIN man went from Jerusalem to Jericho, and he fell among thieves, who hurt him and took all of his money and clothes and left him lying half dead on the road.

A little while after this a priest came down the road, and when he saw the poor sick man he passed on to the other side of the road and left him lying there.

Then another man, when he came to that place, looked at him, and he too left him and passed on to the other side.

But a third man (a Samaritan) as he journeyed, came to where the man lay, and when he saw him he felt sorry and went to him and wrapped clean cloths around his wounds and put the sick man on his donkey and took him to an inn, where he fed him and took care of him. The next day when the good Samaritan had to go away he gave money to the man who owned the inn and told him to take care of the sick man. And he said, "Whatever you spend more than this; when I come again I will pay you."

"Now," Jesus said, "which do you think of the three men was neighbor to the sick man?"

And the man answered, "the one who showed mercy and helped him."

Then Jesus said, "Go and do as this man did."

XLVI

THE STORY OF THE PRODIGAL SON

JESUS went through the cities and villages, teaching the people, and journeying towards Jerusalem. And a great many gathered around him to hear him, and he told them a story to show them that they must love and forgive people who have been bad, and must give them a chance to try again to be good. He said to them:

A certain rich man had two sons, and the younger son said to his father, "Father, some day I know that you will give all of your money to my brother and me, but I would like to have my share now."

So their father gave each son his share of the money.

Not many days after this, the younger son took all that his father had given him and went away into a far country, and there he spent all of his money and became very very poor. He grew so hungry that he asked a man on a farm to hire him. So the man hired him and sent him into his fields to feed the swine. Now there was very little to eat in that country, so the Prodigal son had to eat the food that was given to the swine.



THE PRODIGAL SON WAS SENT INTO THE FIELD TO FEED THE SWINE

One day as he sat in the fields he said to himself, "At home in my father's house even the servants have more than they want to eat, and I am almost dead from hunger. I will arise and go to my father, and will say to him, father I have sinned against heaven and before you, and am no more worthy to be called your son. Make me as one of your servants."

And he arose and came to his father. But while he was yet a great way off his father saw him and was sorry for him and ran to him and put his arms around his neck and kissed him. And the son said, "I am not good, I am not worthy to be called your son."

But the father said to a servant, "Bring the best clothes and put them on him, and put a ring on his hand and shoes on his feet, and put on the table good things to eat, and we will have music and will be merry. For I thought that my son was dead, but he is alive. He was lost, and now is found."

And they began to be merry.

Now the older son had been out in the fields, and as he came near the house and heard the music and dancing, he called a servant and asked why every one seemed so happy.

The servant said, "Your brother is here and every one is happy because he is home safe and sound."

Then the older brother was angry and would not go in; so his father came out to him, and the son said, "Father, for years I have stayed at home to work for you and have

always done what you asked of me. And you have never had these good things to eat and music and dancing for me and my friends. But when this son who went away from you, comes back again, you give him all of these things.”

Then the father said, “Son, you are always with me and all that I have is yours. It is right that we should be merry now, for I thought your brother was dead, and he is alive! he was lost, and is found.”

XLVII

THE STORY OF LAZARUS

IN a town called Bethany lived a young man and his two sisters whom Jesus loved very much. The young man's name was Lazarus, and one sister was called Mary and the other Martha.

Once when Jesus was in another part of the country, Lazarus became very sick and his sisters were frightened and sent word to Jesus saying, "Lord, he whom thou lovest is sick."

Now although Jesus loved Lazarus, he did not hurry to Bethany, but stayed where he was for two days longer. Then he said to James and John and his other friends, "Let us go to Judea again."

His friends knew that the Jews in that country hated Jesus, and that once before when he was there they had tried to kill him, so now they did not want him to go.

But, you see, Mary and Martha had sent for him and he knew that they needed his help. So he said to them, "Our friend Lazarus is asleep, but I will go that I may waken him out of his sleep."

They said to him, "Lord if he is asleep, it is well that he can rest."

But Jesus meant that Lazarus had died. Then he spoke more plainly to them and said, "Lazarus is dead."

So they journeyed towards Bethany, and as they drew near the town Jesus learned that Lazarus had lain in the grave four days.

Some people who heard that Jesus was coming, ran and told Mary and Martha that he would soon be in Bethany. As soon as Martha heard that Christ was coming she hurried out to meet him, and when she saw him she said, "Lord, if you had been here my brother would not have died. But I know that even now, whatever you will ask of God, God will give you."

And Jesus said comfortingly to Martha, "Your brother shall rise again."

When Jesus finished speaking to her, Martha left him and went and called Mary and said, "the Master is here and is calling for you." As soon as Mary heard this, she rose quickly and went to Jesus.

Jesus had not come into the town, but had waited where Martha met him. When Mary came to him, she fell, crying at his feet and said, "Lord, if you had been here my brother would not have died."

When Jesus saw Mary and her friends crying, he too felt very sad. And he said, "Where have you laid Lazarus?"

And they answered, "Lord, come and see." And as they went he wept.

When the Jews saw this, they said, "See, how Jesus loved him."

Then they came to the grave. (It was a cave, and a stone lay before it.) And Jesus said "Take away the stone."

Then raising his eyes to God, he said, "I thank you, Father, because you have heard me, and I know that you hear me always." Then he cried with a loud voice, "Lazarus, come forth."

And the man who had been dead came out into the sunshine, and Mary and Martha clasped their dear brother in their arms.

XLVIII

TEN LEPERS ARE HEALED

FOR several weeks now, as Jesus had been healing the sick and teaching the people, he had been traveling through the towns and cities which led to Jerusalem.

And because so many people had learned to love Jesus and to follow him, the priests and rulers of the country became afraid that the people would make him their ruler, so these men hated Jesus and said that they would put him to death.

Jesus knew that the rulers wished to kill him, but because he loved the people more than he did himself, he did not go away, but stayed to make them well and to teach them to love one another.

As he was going towards Jerusalem and passed through a certain village, ten lepers met him. Lepers are people who are sick with a disease called leprosy and they know that no doctor can make them well. So when they saw Jesus they called to him and said, "Jesus, Master, have mercy on us,"

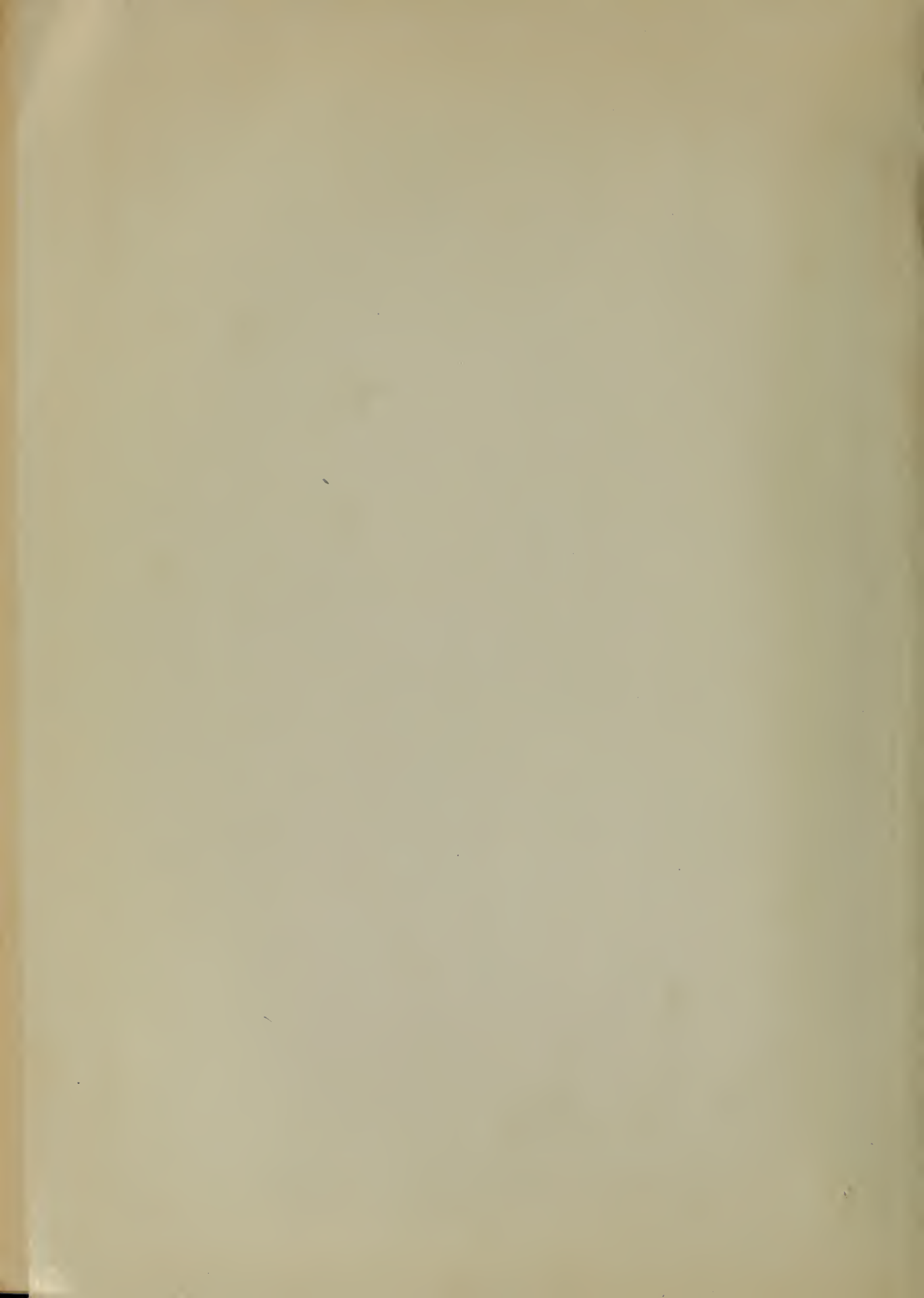
And when Jesus saw them he said, "Go and show yourselves to the priests."

So they started down the road to go to the church, and as they went their sickness left them, and they were well men. And one of them when he saw that he was well, turned back, and in a loud voice he praised God, and he kneeled at Jesus' feet and thanked him.

And Jesus said, "Were there not ten men made well? Are you the only one who thanks me; where are the other nine? Arise," he said, "and go your way; your faith has made thee whole."



'SUFFER THE LITTLE CHILDREN TO COME UNTO ME: FOR OF SUCH IS THE KINGDOM OF GOD'



XLIX

JESUS BLESSES THE LITTLE CHILDREN

IN this part of the country, as in every part that Jesus visited, the mothers had heard of this good man who spent all of his time helping people, and they had heard that more than any one else he loved little children. So one day they came to him, bringing their little boys and girls, leading some of them by the hand, and carrying the very little ones in their arms.

When his friends saw all these children coming they told the mothers to go away; that Jesus was busy. But Jesus wanted the little children; he was never too busy to love them, so he said, "Suffer the little children to come unto me and forbid them not; for of such is the kingdom of heaven."

So he took them in his arms and laid his hands on their heads and laughed and talked with them.

L

THE STORY OF THE FIRST PALM SUNDAY

THE season of the Passover was drawing near, and Jesus and his friends started toward Jerusalem. Very different this journey was from the one that his mother and Joseph had taken him on, to attend the Feast of the Passover, about twenty years before. Now he would enter the city, a man who had finished his work, who had helped every one he met to live a better life.

Great crowds of people were traveling along the road to spend the week at Jerusalem. Some of them slept in the fields, some in the houses of friends along the way.

When Jesus and his friends reached Bethany (which is only a few miles from Jerusalem) he stayed at the house of his friend Lazarus. The next day, while Jesus was eating his supper in the house of a man named Simon, Mary, the sister of Lazarus, came to him, and breaking open a beautiful box poured a sweet smelling ointment on Jesus' feet and wiped his feet with her hair.

Now among Christ's twelve friends (who were called apostles) was a man called Judas Iscariot. This apostle did not really love Jesus, and when Mary poured the oint-

ment on his feet, Judas said that she was wasting it, and that she should have sold it and given the money to the poor.

Jesus knew that before long the rulers would kill him, so he said, "she has anointed me for my burial."

The next day was Sunday, and people at the church in Jerusalem were talking about Jesus. Some said, "Do you think that Jesus will come to Jerusalem for the Passover?" and others answered, "No, he will be afraid to come because if he comes here the rulers will take him, and will kill him." But still others said that he was on his way to the city, now. And it was so.

While the people at the church were speaking of him, Jesus and his twelve apostles were on the road near one of the small towns, and Jesus said to two of his friends, "Go to the edge of the town and you will find there a donkey tied by the door of a house, untie it and bring it to me."

So they went to the town and found the donkey. And the owner of it asked them what they were doing with his donkey, and the apostles said, "The Master needs it."

So the man knew that his friend Jesus wanted the donkey and he let them lead it away. Then, for a saddle his friends put their cloaks on the donkey's back, and seating Jesus on it, they rode towards Jerusalem.

As they passed down the road, hundreds of his friends came to meet him. Many of the people whom he had made well ran down the road beside him. They cut down palms

from the trees and waved them in the air, they laid their clothes and some of the palms on the road for Jesus to walk on. They went along, with Jesus riding in their midst; they went laughing and singing, "Hosanna, Blessed is he who cometh in the name of the Lord, Hosanna in the highest."

When he came into the city and the people there heard the singing, they said, "Who is this?" and the people with him answered, "This is Jesus, the prophet of Nazareth of Galilee."

Then Jesus went into the temple, and people were sitting there in the house of God selling things, and changing money. When Jesus saw this, he was very angry, and he sent them from the temple, and said to them, "It is written, My house shall be called the house of prayer, and ye have made it a den of thieves."

Then the lame and the blind came to him and he made them well.

When the priests and rulers saw the wonderful things that he did, and heard the people praising him, they were very angry.

And Jesus left them and went again to Bethany, and spent the night there.

LI

THE LAST SUPPER

EACH day for the next three days, Jesus went to the temple in Jerusalem to talk to the people and to heal them, and each day the priests became more and more angry. But they were afraid to take him in the daytime because the people loved him so.

At last the priests met in a room to talk together to see how they could take Jesus to kill him, and as they were talking a servant came to them saying, "a man is waiting outside who says he is one of Jesus' apostles."

When the man came in and the priests saw his bad cruel face they were surprised. Then Judas said, "How much money will you give me if I show you where to find Jesus at night so that you can take him while the people are asleep?"

The priests were glad when they heard this, and said, "We will give you thirty pieces of silver."

Then this bad man went back again to Jesus, to God's son, whom he had sold for thirty pieces of silver.

On Thursday the feast of the Passover began. Jerusalem

was crowded with people, for that night every one who could do so would eat their supper in the city.

On Thursday morning his friends had said to Jesus, "Where shall we go to eat the Passover, in whose house shall we find a room and a table for our supper?"

And Judas listened for the Master's answer, because he wanted to tell the priests where Jesus would be that night.

But Jesus knew that he was listening and, in a low voice so that the rest could not hear, he told Peter and John to go into the city and there they would see a man carrying a pitcher of water. He told them to follow this man and when he went into a house they must go in too, and say to the owner, "The master says: 'where is the guest chamber where I shall eat the Passover with my friends?'"

And Peter and John went into the city and did as Jesus told them, and made the room ready for the supper that night.

When the darkness came on Jesus and his friends left the Mount of Olives and went into Jerusalem and up to the room to eat their supper.

While they were eating, Jesus took bread and, when he had thanked God for it, he broke it and gave it to his friends saying, "Do this in remembrance of me." Then he took the cup and, passing it to his friends, said, "Do this as often as you drink it in remembrance of me."

When they had finished supper, Jesus took a towel and, pouring some water into a basin, he began to wash the feet

of his apostles. He did this to show them that they must never be too proud to help one another. His friends knew that if we truly love God and our fellow-men we need never be ashamed to do anything that will make people better and happier; no matter how humble that work may be.

He talked with them for a long while, and told them that soon the rulers would kill him.

Then Judas rose up quickly and went out into the night to tell the priests where they would find the Lord.

A little longer Jesus sat talking with his friends; he told them that in a little while he would leave them, and that where he went they could not come.

And Peter asked Jesus where he was going, and he answered, "Where I go you cannot follow now, but later you shall follow me."

Then Peter said, "Lord, why can I not follow you now?"

Jesus looked at him sadly and said, "Peter, before the cock crows this day, you will say three times that you do not know me."

Then they left the house and went to the Mount of Olives.

IN THE GARDEN OF GETHSEMANE

THE moon was shining as they passed through the quiet streets. They left the city and followed the road down a hill and over a bridge which crossed a little stream. When they had crossed the brook, they came to a garden called Gethsemane.

Then Jesus said, "Sit ye here while I go and pray yonder."

Then he took Peter and James and John farther into the garden with him. And he grew very very sad and said to them, "My soul is exceeding sorrowful, even unto death; tarry ye here and watch with me."

And he went alone a little farther into the garden and kneeled there and talked to God, and said, "Oh my Father, if it be possible, let this cup pass from me; nevertheless, not as I will, but as Thou wilt."

And he went back to his friends and found them asleep; and he said to Peter, "Could you not watch with me one hour?"

He went away again and spoke to God, saying, "Oh my

Father, if this cup may not pass away from me except I drink it, Thy will be done."

And he went and found his friends again asleep, and he left them and spoke once more to God.

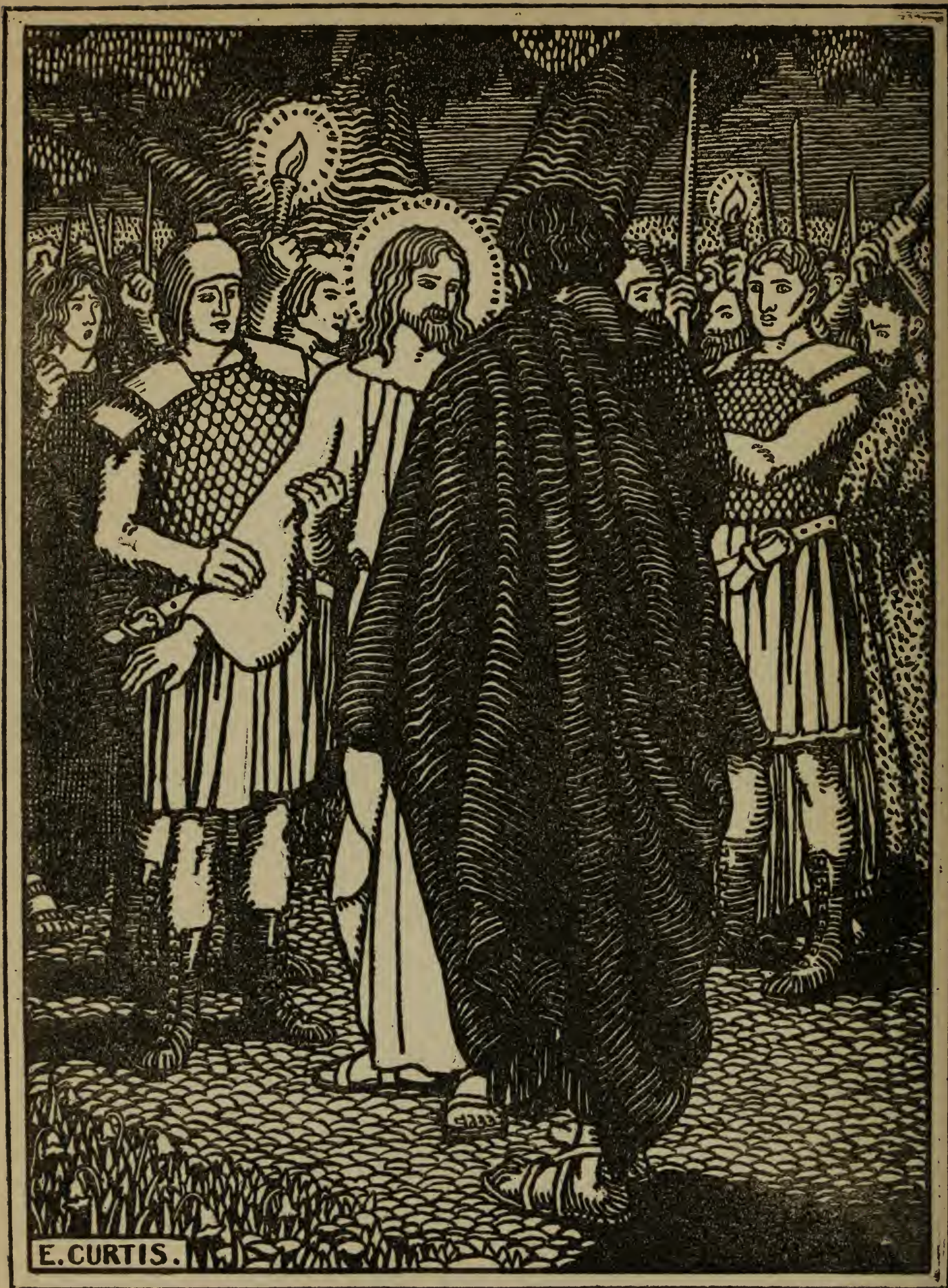
Then returning to them, he said, "Rise, let us be going."

They went a few steps and waited, and Judas Iscariot came into the garden with the soldiers, and he said to them, "He whom I shall kiss; that is Jesus. Hold him fast."

And he came to Jesus and said, "Hail Master," and kissed him.

Then the soldiers took hold of Jesus, and Peter took his sword and smote a servant of the high priest and cut off one of his ears, but Jesus said, "Put your sword away again in its place." Then they led him out of the garden and back to Jerusalem.

But all of Jesus friends were so frightened that they left him, and ran away.



E. CURTIS.

STRAIGHT TO JESUS WENT JUDAS, MASTER, MASTER, HE EXCLAIMED AS IF GLAD TO SEE HIM, AND KISSED HIM

GOD'S SON IS QUESTIONED BY THE HIGH PRIEST

ALTHOUGH it was late at night, many people heard the soldiers as they passed with Jesus through the streets, and they ran to their doors and asked whom they had taken, and when the soldiers answered that it was Jesus of Nazareth, they left their houses and followed him to the palace of the high priest.

The priests were all ready and waiting when Jesus was brought in. But when they questioned him, Jesus stood before them and said nothing.

Then the High Priest asked him if he were the Son of God, and Jesus answered that he was. And the High Priest said to the others, "What do you think?" and they answered, "He is guilty of death, because he says that he is the Christ."

Now in another part of the palace Peter sat. He felt ashamed that he had run away, so he had come back to be near Jesus.

And a girl standing beside Peter said to him, "You were with Jesus of Galilee, you are one of his friends."

But Peter was again afraid, and said, "I do not know what you are saying."

When he went out into the porch, another girl saw him and said, "This fellow was also with Jesus of Nazareth."

Peter said, "I do not know the man."

In a little while some people standing on the porch said to him, "Surely you are one of Jesus' friends, you speak like a man from Galilee."

But he said again, "I do not know the man."

Then suddenly he heard a rooster crow, and he remembered that Jesus had told him that before the cock crowed, Peter would say three times that he did not know him. And he went out and cried bitterly.

THEY CRUCIFY HIM UNDER PONTIUS PILATE

ON Friday morning when it grew light, they took Jesus to Pontius Pilate. He was the ruler, and unless he allowed it, the priests could not put a man to death. So they brought him before Pilate, who asked them, "What has he done, that you want him to be killed?"

And the Jews answered, "He says that he is the King of the Jews."

Pilate said to Jesus, "Are you the King of the Jews?"

Then Jesus told Pilate that he was a king, but that he did not live in a palace or wear a crown. God had sent him to be a new kind of King. He kept nothing for himself, but gave always of his great gift of love.

When he finished speaking Pilate went out again to the Jews and said, "I find no sin in him at all."

Then the Jews were very angry. And Pilate said, "What shall I do with Jesus which is called Christ?"

And the Jews answered, "Let him be crucified. Let him be nailed upon the cross."

"But," Pilate said, "what has he done that is bad?"

And they cried in a louder voice, "Let him be nailed upon the cross."

When Pilate found that they would not listen to him, he took water and washed his hands in the sight of all the people, and said, "I will not kill this good man, you must do it without my help."

So the soldiers took Jesus away. And they made a crown of thorns and put it on his head. They put upon him a robe—such as only kings wear—and they mocked him and said, "Hail, King of the Jews," and they struck him with their hands.

Then they took Jesus and led him away to be killed. As they went, they met a man from the country and they gave him Christ's cross to carry. Then they went on to a place called Calvary, where they nailed him to the cross.

And Pilate wrote a sign which they put upon his cross, and the sign read: "Jesus of Nazareth, the King of the Jews."

On the same hill they crucified two men who were thieves. They placed their crosses, one on the right of Jesus' cross and the other on the left.

One of the thieves called to Jesus and mocked him, and said to him, "If you are the Christ, save yourself and us."

But the other thief said to the one who mocked, "Do you not fear God, seeing that you are punished in the same way? We should be punished for we have been wicked men, but

Jesus has done nothing wrong." And he said to Jesus, "Lord, remember me when you come into your kingdom."

Jesus said to the man, "Verily I say unto thee, to-day shalt thou be with me in paradise."

As he saw the soldiers and people standing on the hill beneath his cross he called to God and said, "Father, forgive them, for they know not what they do."

Even when they had done this to him he felt sorry for them because they were so bad.

Now, standing before his cross, Jesus saw his mother, and beside her was his friend John, whom he loved. And Jesus said to his mother, "Behold thy son." And he said to John, "Behold thy mother."

He meant that John was to be a son to Mary when Jesus was gone. So John took Mary to his own home and took care of her.

Then Jesus spoke once more to God and said, "Into thy hands I commend my spirit." So Jesus died.

And they took him from the cross and laid his body in a cave, which is called a tomb, and a large stone was placed before the opening of the tomb, and two soldiers stood there to guard so that no one could go in or go out from it.

"THE LORD IS RISEN"

SATURDAY was a long sad day for the friends of Jesus. They thought of him lying there in the tomb, and it seemed to them that they could never be happy again. They remembered all the beautiful things that he had said to them, and his many kind deeds. He had been with them so long, and they had loved him so dearly; and now this wonderful man, this Son of God, had died like the two thieves who were crucified with him.

At last the long day passed, and very early on Sunday morning two of Christ's friends (Mary Magdalene and another Mary) went to visit his grave. As they entered the garden where he had been buried, one woman said to the other, "How shall we roll away the stone that was placed in front of his tomb? We cannot move it, it is too heavy."

But as they drew near and looked, they saw that the stone had already been rolled away. Then they ran quickly to the tomb, and looking in, thought at first that it was empty, but as their eyes grew accustomed to the darkness inside, they saw two angels in long white robes.



WHEN THEY CAME TO THE TOMB, THE STONE WAS ALREADY ROLLED BACK, AND IN ITS PLACE AN ANGEL WHOSE COUNTENANCE WAS LIKE LIGHTNING AND HIS RAIMENT WHITE AS SNOW

The angels said to them, “Why seek ye the living among the dead? He is not here; but is risen. Have you forgotten that he told you how the rulers would kill him, but that on the third day God would again give him life?”

When the angels finished speaking the women hurried from the garden, and ran to the house where his apostles were staying, and told them of the wonderful things they had heard and seen.

But his friends could not believe that Jesus was really alive again, so Peter and John said they would go to the garden to see for themselves. Now John could run faster than Peter, and so reached the garden first, and stooping down he looked into the tomb, but saw nothing. Then Peter came, and he and John went in together.

But Christ was not there; the tomb was empty; and lying folded beside the grave were the linen cloths that he had worn.

So they went out into the beautiful morning, but although the sun was shining and the little birds singing and the whole garden was full of happiness, they did not feel it, but left the garden wondering why the grave was empty and what had become of Jesus.

Mary Magdalene did not go with Peter and John when they left the garden, but stayed there beside the tomb, weeping very bitterly, and Jesus came and stood beside her and spoke to her, but because her eyes were full of tears, she did

not know him. She thought he was the man who took care of the garden.

And Jesus said to her, "Why do you weep? For whom are you looking?"

And she answered "Oh, sir, if you have taken Jesus away, tell me where you have laid him."

Then he said to her, "Mary."

She turned and looked at him and knew him; and she said to him, "My Master," and knelt at his feet.

He told her not to touch him, but to go to the city and tell his friends that he had risen from the dead.

So Mary hurried back to Jerusalem and told the apostles that Jesus was alive and had spoken to her in the garden.

LVI

THE WALK TO EMMAUS

IN the afternoon of that first Easter Sunday, two men left the city to walk to a little town called Emmaus. They had been in Jerusalem for the feast of the Passover, and knew how their friend Jesus had been put to death. As they walked along talking together of these things, they were so unhappy and looked so sad that every one who passed turned to look at them.

By and by they left the crowded city behind them and walked along the quiet country road, and there Jesus joined them. He asked them what they were talking about and why they looked so sad. But they were so worried and unhappy, that they did not see that it was Jesus who walked with them.

They said to him "Are you a stranger in Jerusalem, and so have not heard how Jesus of Nazareth was put to death? This is the third day since he died, and this morning when Mary Magdalene visited his tomb, he was not there, and she said that she saw two angels who told her that Jesus had risen from the dead, and we do not know what to think."

Then Jesus told them the things that had been written about him in the Bible hundreds of years before. And as they drew near Emmaus, Jesus started to walk on but the two men said, "Stay with us, for it is almost evening, and the day is far spent."

So he went into their house, and as they sat down to supper, he took bread, and when he had blessed it, he broke it, and as he handed it to them, they looked at him and knew that he was Christ. And quietly, without a word, he left them.

The two men left the table at once, and they said to one another, "Did not our hearts feel glad while he talked with us on the way? How was it that we did not know him?" And they hurried back to Jerusalem and found the apostles, and said to them, "The Lord is risen indeed." And they told all that had happened to them.

As they talked, Jesus himself came into the room and said, "Peace be unto you."

But they looked at him and felt afraid. They thought to themselves, "Can he really be alive again?" Just because they were so glad it seemed to them that this could not be their Lord.

Jesus knew what they were thinking and said to them, "Behold my hands and my feet," and he stretched out his hands and showed them the scars that the nails had made.

Then they knew that this must be Christ; who had died and risen again from the dead.

LVII

JESUS RETURNS TO HIS FATHER

AFTER that glad Easter day, Jesus was often with his friends.

One day he told them that he was going to leave the world and go again to heaven, to be with his Father. But he told them that although they would not be able to see him, his spirit would be always with them. He told them that God would help them, and that they must go to all of the cities and towns and teach the people to love and help one another.

Forty days after Jesus had risen from the dead, he led his friends out of Jerusalem as far as Bethany, and as he stood talking to them, all the beauty and strength of his nature seemed to shine in his face. He asked them to tell the people about his life and death. If people could really know that another man had loved so greatly that he had spent all of his time healing the sick and helping the poor, he felt that they too would be glad to serve others whenever they could.

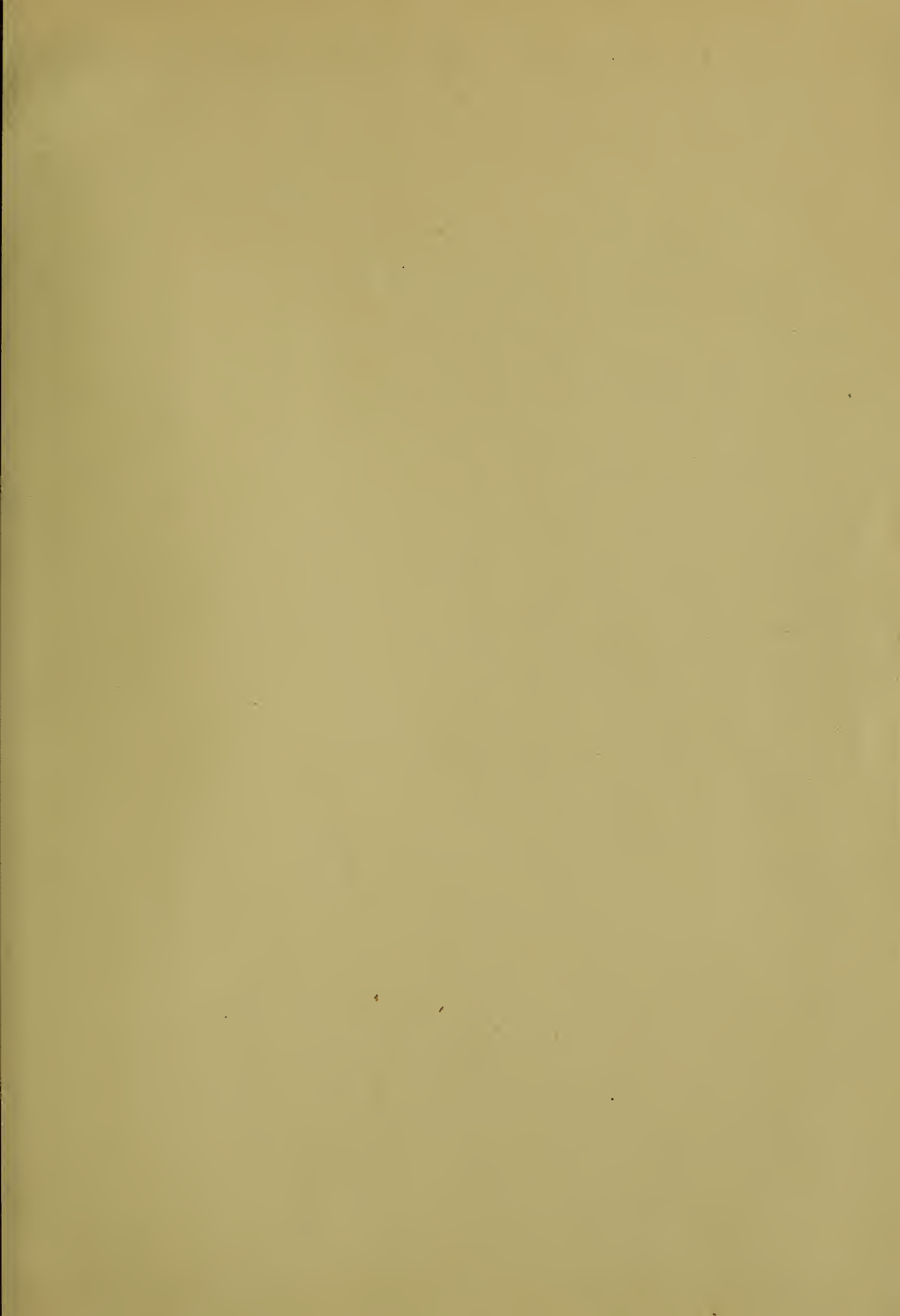
Then he lifted up his hands and blessed them, and as they

looked, God lifted him up, a cloud from the sky covered him, and he was taken into heaven.

As the friends of Jesus stood looking up into the sky, two men in white robes stood beside them and said to them, "You men of Galilee, why do you stand gazing up into heaven? Some day when people have learned to love him, Jesus will come again to the earth."

Then his friends went to the cities and towns and told people everywhere how Christ had spent his life teaching people how to love their fellowmen.

THE END





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